

THE TRIVMPH
OF TIME.

WHEREIN IS DISCOVERED BY
A PLEASANT HISTORIE, THAT
although by the meanes of sinister Fortune,
TRUTH may be concealed, yet by TIME
in spite of Fortune, it is most ma-
nifestly Revealed.

Pleasant for age to auoid drowsie thoughts, pro-
fitable for Youth, to eschue other wanton Pastimes;
and bringing to both a desired Content.

Temporis filia, Veritas.

By Robert Greene, Maister of Arts in Cambridge.

Omne tulit punctum qui miscuit uile dulci.



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LONDON,
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by John Tap, at his shop, neare S. Magnus corner. 1614.

TO THE GENTLE- MEN READERS, HEALTH.



He poultry Poet APHRANIUS being bla-
med for troubling the Emperour TRAIAN,
with somany Doating Poemes: aduentured
not withstanding, still to present him with
Rude and homely Verses, excusing himselfe
with the courtesie of the Emperour, which
did as friendly accept, as hee fondly offered.

So Gentlemen, If any condeme my rashnesse, for troubling
your Eares with somany unlearned Pamphlets, I will straight
shrowd my selfe under the shadow of your Courtesies, and wth
Aphranius, lay the blame on you; As well on you for friendlie
Reading them, as on my selfe fondlie Penning them. Hoping,
though fond, curios, or rather currish Back-byters breathe out
slanderous speeches: Yet the courteous Readers (whom I feare
to offend) will requite my Trauell, at the least with Silence:
And in this Hope, I rest: wishing you health & happiness.

Robert Greene.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE, GEORGE

Clyfford Earle of Cumberland;

Robert Greene wisheth increase
of Honour and vertue.



HE Rascians (Right Honourable) when by
long gazing against the Sunne, they be-
come halfe blinde, recover their sightes by
looking on the blacke Load-Stone: Uni-
corns being glutted with brouching on roots
of Lyxoras, sharpen their stomackes, with
crashing bitter grasse.

Alexander vouchsafed as well to smile
at the crooked picture of Vulcan as to wonder at the curious
counterfeit of Venus. The minde is sometimes delighted as
much with small trifles, as with sumptuous Triumphs; and as
well pleated with hearing of Pans homely fancies, as of Her-
cules renowned Labours.

Silly Bancis could not serue Jupiter in a siluer plate, but in a
wodden-dish. All that honor & sculpius decke not his shrine
with Jewels. Apollo giues Oracles, as well to the poore man
for his mite, as to the rich man for his tealeature. The stone Echi-
tes is not so much liked for the colour, as for vertue: and gifts
are not to be measured by the worth, but by the will. Nison
that vnskilfull Painter of Greece, aduentured to giue vnto Da-
vid the sheldre of Dallas, so roughly shaduoyed, as hee smyled
more at the follie of the Man, then at the imperfection of the
Art. So I presentvnto your Honour The Triumph of Time. So
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rudely finished, as I feare your Honors will rather shrowne at my impudencie, then laugh at my Ignorance: But I hope my willing minde shall excuse my slender skill, and your Honours courtesie shadow my rashnes.

They which feare the byting of Vipers, doe carrie in their hands the plumes of a Phœnix. Phydies drew Vulcan sitting in a chayre of Yuorie. Cesars-Crowe durst never crye *Ave*, but when she was pearked on the Capitoll. And I feeke to shrowd this imperfect Pamphlet vnder your Honors Patronage, doubting the ditt of such invnomed-Vipers, as seeke with theyr slanderous reproches to carpe at all, being oftentimes most vnlearned of all: and assure my selfe, that your Honours renowned valour, and vertuous disposition, shall be sufficient defence to protect me from the poysoned tongues of such scorning Sycopants; hoping that as *Jupiter* vouchsafed to lodge in *Phulmons* thatched Cottage; & *Phillip of Macedon*, to take a branch of grapes of a Countrey Peasant: So I hope your Honour measuring my worke by my will, and weighing more the minde, then the matter, will (when you haue cast a glaunce at this toy) with *Minervis*, vnder your golden Target, couer a deformed Owle. And in this hope I rest, Wishing vnto you and the vertuous Countesse your Wife, such happy successe as your Honours can desire or imagine.

Your Lordships most dutifull
to commaund,

Robert Greene.

P. B. This history is the Foundation of Shakespear's Winter's Tale.

THE HISTORIE OF DORASTVS AND FAWNIA.



Mongst all the Passions wherewith humane mindes are perplered, there is none that so galleth with restlesse despight, as that infectious sore of zealousie: For all other griefs are eynther to bee a; pleased with sensible persuasions, to be cured with wholsome Counsell, to be relied in want, or by tract of time to be worne out, zealousie onely excepted, which is sauved with suspitious doubts, and pinching mistrust, that who so soke by friendly counsell to rase out this hellish passion, it soorthwith suspecteth that he giueth this advice to couer his owne guiltinesse. Pea who so is pinched with this restles torment, doubteth all, distrusteth himselfe, is alwaies frozen with feare, and fired with susition, hauing that wherien consisteth all his toy, to be the brazier of his miserie. Pea it is such an heauie enemie to that holy estate of matrimonic, soowing betwene the married couples such deadly seedes of secret hatred, as loue being once rased out by spitefull distrust, there oft ensueth bloody reuenge, as this ensuing history manifestly sheweth: wherein Pandosto (furiously incensed by a cause of zealousie) procured the death of his most louing and louall wife, and his owne endlesse sorrow and misery.

In the country of Bohemia, there reigned a King called Pandosto, whose fortunate successe in warres against his foes, and bountifull courtesie towards his friendes in peace, made him to bee greatly feared and loued of all men. This Pandosto had to wife a Ladie called Bellaria, by birth royall, learned by education, faire by nature, by vertues famous: so that it was hard to judge, whether her beautie, fortune, or vertue, wan the greatest

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greatest commendations. These two linked together in perfect loue, led therelues with such fortunate content, that their subiects greatly rejoiced to see their quiet disposition. They had not bin married long, but fortune (willing to increase their happiness) lent them a Sonne, so adorned with the gifts of nature, as the perfection of the Childe greitly augmented the loue of the Parents, and the joy of their Commons: in so much that the Bohemians to shew their inward joyes by outward actions, made Bonfires and triumphs throughout all the Kingdome, appoynting Tolls and Turneys for the honour of their young Prince: whither resorted not onely his Nobles, but also divers Kings and Princes which were his Neighbours, willing to shew their friendship they ought to Pandosto, and obiane fame and glory by their prowelte and valour. Pandosto whose minde was fraught with Princely liberalitie, entertained the Kings, Princes and Noblemen with such subtile curtesie, and magnificall bountie, that they all saw how willing hee was to gratifie their good wils, making a generall feast for his subiects, which continued by the space of tene dayes; at which time the Jolls and Turneys were kept to the great content both of the Lords and Ladies there present. This solemnne triumph being once ended, the assembly taking their leave of Pandosto and Bellaria, the young sonne (who was called Garinter) was nutted vp in the hause, to the great joy and content of the Parents. Fortune easious of such happy successe, willing to shew some signe of her inconstancy, turned her wile, and dackned their bright Sunne of prosperitie with the mistie clouds of mishap and onerarie. For it so happened that Egistus king of Sycilia, who in his youth had bin brought vp with Pandosto, desrons to shew that neither tract of time nor distance of place could diminishe their former friendshipe, provided a Fluy of shippes and sailed into Bohemia, to visit his old friend and companion: who he witing of his arrivall went himselfe in person and his wife Bellaria, accompaniace with a great traine of Lords and Ladies, to meet Egistus: and espying him, alighted from his horse, embrased him very lovingly, proclaming, that nothing in the world could haue appeared more acceptable to him then his coming, wishing his wifewo welrome his old friend and acquaintance: who (to shew how she liked him

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him whom her husband loued) entartayned him with such familiar cortesie, as Egistus perceiued himselfe to be very well welcome. After they had thus saluted and embrased each other, they mounted againe on horse-backe, and rode toward the Citie, devising and recounting, how bæing children they had passed their youth in friendly pastimes: where, by the meanes of the Citizens, Egistus was received with triumphes and shewes, in such sorte, that he inauillled how on so small a warning, they could make such preparation. Passing the Streetes thus with such rare sights, they rode on to the Pallace: where Pandosto entartayned Egistus & his Sycilians with such banqueting and sumptuous cheare, so royally, as they had all cause to commend his Princely liberalitie: yea, the very basest slau that was knowne to come from Sycilia was vled with such curtesie, that Egistus might easly perceiue, how both he and his were honoured for his friends sake. Bellaria (who in her time was the flower of curtesie) willing to shew how basely she loued her husband, by his friends entertainment, vled him likewise so familiarly, that her countenance betrayid how her minde was affected towards him: stentimes comming her selfe into his bedchamber, to see that nothing shoulde be amis to mislike hym. This honest familiaritie increased daily more and more betwixt them: for Bellaria noting in Egistus a Princely and bountifull minde, adorned with sundry and excellent qualities, and Egistus finding in her a vertuous and courteous disposition, there grew such a secret uniting of their affections, that the one could not well be without the company of the other: insomuch that when Pandosto was busid with such urgent affaires: that hee could not be present with his friend Egistus, Bellaria would walke with him in the garden, and there they two in priuate pleasant deuises, would passe away their time to both their contentes. This custome still continuing betwixt them, a certaine melancholy passion entring the minde of Pandosto, drous him into sundry & doubtfull thoughts. First, he called to minde the beautie of his wife Bellaria, the comelinesse and brauerie of his friend Egistus, thinking that loue was abone all Lawes, and therefore to bee stayed with no law: that it was hard to put fire and flare together without burning, that their open pleasures might brade his

his secret displeasures. He considered with himself, that Egistus was a man, & must needs loue: that his wife was a woman, and therefore subject to loue: and that where fancy forced, friendship was of no force. These & such like doubtfull thoughts a long time smothering in his stomacke, began at last to kindle in his minde a secret mistrust, which increased by suspition, grew at last to flaming iealousie, that so tormented him as he could take no rest. He then began to measure all their actions, and misconstrue of their too private familiaritie, iudging that it was not for honest affection, but for disorderly fancies: so as he began to watch them more narrowly, to see if he could get any true or certaine profe to confirme his doubtfull suspition. While thus he noted her looks and gestures, and suspected their thoughts & meanings, they two silly sonnes, who doubted nothing of this his trecherous intent, frequented daily each others company: which drawe him into such a scandall passion, that he began to bear a secret hate to Egistus, and a lowing countenance to Bellaria: who inwarting at such vnaccustomed stroknes, began to cast beyond the more, and to enter into a 1000. sundry thoughts, which way she should offend her husband: but finding in her selfe a cleare conscience, ceased to muse, till such time as shee might finde fit opportunitie to demand the cause of his dumpes. In the meane time, Pandolfoes minde was so far charged with iealousie that he no longer doubted, but was assured (as he thought) that his friend Egistus had entered a long point in his tables, and so had plaid him false play. Whereupon desirous to revenge so great an iniurie, he thought best to dissemble the grudge with a faire and frendly countenance: & so vnder the shape of a friend, to shew him the triche of a fee. Drudging with himselfe a long time, how he might best put away Egistus, without suspition of trecherous murther, concluded at last to poison him. Which opinion pleasing his humour, he became resolute in his determination: and the better to bring the matter to passe, he called to him his cup-beater, with whom in secret he brake the matter: promising him for the performance thereof, to give him 1000. crownes of yarely revenues. His cup-beater, either being of a god conscience, or willing for fashions sake to deny such a bloody request, beganne with great reasons to perswade Pandolfo

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from his determinate mischiefe: shewing him what an evill murther was to the gods, how much unnaturlall actis did more displease the heauens, then mett; & that cawle & cruelty did shalldome or never escape without revenge: he layd before his face, that Egistus was his friend, a King, & one that was come into his Kingdoms; to confirme a league of perpetuall amitie betwixt them, that he had, and did shew him a most friendly countenance; how Egistus was not onely honoured of his owne people by obedience, but also loued of the Bohemians for his certeine. And that if he now shold, without any iust or manifest cause, poison him, it would not onely be a great dishonour to his state, and a meane to sow perpetuall enmity between the Sycilians and the Bohemians, but also his owne subiects would repine at such treacherous cruelty. These and such like perswasions of Franon (for so was his Cup-beater called) could no whit preuaile to dissuade him from his diuellish enterprise: but remaining resolute in his determination (his fury so fired with rage, as it could not be appeased with reason) he began with bitter taunts to take vp his man, and to lay before him two batles; preferment and death: saying that if he would poison Egistus, he would advance him to high dignities: if he refused to bee it of an obstatte minde, no torture shold be too great to require his disobedience. Franon, seeing that to perswade Pandolfo any more, was but to straine against the stremme, consented, as stome as opportunity would gaine him leane, to dispatch Egistus: Wherein with Pandolfo remained somewhat satisfied, hoping now he shold be fully revenged of such mistrusted iniuries, intending also as stome as Egistus was dead, to give his wife a top of the same salwe, & to be rid of those which were the cause of his restles soule. Whilke thus he liued in this hope, Franon being secret in his chamber, began to meditate with himselfe in these termes.

AND Franon, treason is loued of many, but the Traitor hateth of all: vntill offences may so a time escape without danger, but never without revenge. Thou art servant to a King, and must obey at command: yet Franon, against law and conscience, it is not god to resist a tyrant with armes, nor to please an unius King with obediencie. What shalt thou doe? Folly refuseth

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gold,

gold, and frenche pferment; wilde he seeketh after dignify, and counsell keþþ to gaine. Egistus is a straunge to þe, and Pandosto by þe queraghe: thou hast little canle to respect the one, and rag'hest to haue great care to obey the other. Thinke this, Franiou, that a pound of gold is worth a tuncie of lead, great stoncs to courage; there is nothing swifter then prouotion, nor faster then report; care not then though most count þe a traitor, so all call þe rich. Dignify (Franiou) aduanceth þe postur, and euill report can but hurt þe selfe. Know this, where Eagles bulde, þe falcons in þy prey; where Lyons haunt, Foxes may Steele. Kings are knowne to communue, seruants are blameleſſe to consent: feare not thou then to last at Egistus, Pandosto shal beare the burthen. Pea but Franiou, conscience is a worme that euer biteth, but never sealeþ: that which is robbred with the stans Galacties will never bee hat. Fleſh dipped þe once bit with an Aspis, never greþeth, and conscience once stapped with innocent blod, is alwaies tyed to a grette remorse. Prefer þy content before riches, and a cleare minde before dignify: so haþing þow, thou shal haue rich peace, or else rich, thou shal enjoy disquiet.

Franiou haþing muttered out these or ſuch like words, ſaying either he muſt die with a cleare minde, or liue with a ſpotted conſcience: hee was ſo cumbr'd with diuers agitacions that hee could take no ceſt: untiſt at laſt he determined to breake the matter to Egistus: but ſearing that the King ſhould eyther ſuspect or beare of ſuch matters, he concealed the deuice till opportunity would permiſſe him to reveale it. Lingering thus in doubtfull feare, in an evening he went to Egistus lodging, and deuorous to breake with him of certaine affaires that touched the King, after all were conſidered out of the Chamber, Franiou made iniſed the whole conſpiracie which Pandosto had deuised againſt him, deſiring Egistus not to account him a Traitor, nor belouping his Maſters counſale, but to thinke that he did it for conſcience: hoping that althoſh his Maſter inflamed with rage, or incenſed by ſome ſinifer reportes, or flanderous ſpeches,

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ſpeches, had imagined ſuch canſete mischiefe: yet when thare ſhould pacifie his anger, and try those talebærers but flatering parasites, then he would count him as a faithfull ſervant, that with ſuch care had kept his Maſters ſteue. Egistus had not fully heard Franiou tell forth his tale, but a quaking ſeare poſſeſſed all his limmes, thinking that there was ſome treſon brought, and that Franiou did but shadow his craft with these falſe coloures: whetereþ he began to ware in choller, and ſaide that he doubted not Pandosto, ſith he was his friend, and thare had never as yet bee any breach of amity: he had not ſought to innaide his lands, to conſpice with his enenies, to diſturb his ſubiects from their allegiance: but in word and thought he refled his at all times: he knew not therefore any caufe, that ſhould impue Pandosto to ſeke his death, but iſpected it to be a compacted knauery of the Bohemians, to bring the King and him to oddes. Franiou ſtaying him in the middeſt of his talke, told him, that to dally with Princes was with the ſwannes to ſing againſt their death, and that if the Bohemians had intended any ſuch mischiefe, it might haue bee betteſt brought to paſſe then by revealing the conſpiracie: therefore his Maſterie did ill to misconſtrue of his god meaning, ſith his intent was to hinder treaſon, not to become a traytor: and to conſirme his promises, if it pleased his Maſterie to ſy into Sicilia for the ſafegarde of his life, hee would goe with him; and if then he ſouad not ſuch a praſe to be pletended, let his imagined treacherie be repaycd with moſt ieronious tormentes. Egistus hearing the ſolemne profeſſion of Franiou, beganne to conſider, that in Land and Kingdome, neither ſaſh, nor laſre is to bee reſpected: doubting that Pandosto thought by his death to deſtroy his men, and with ſpeedy warre to innaide Sicilia: These and ſuch doubts thoroughly weyghed, he gaue great thankes to Franiou, promiſing if hee might with life returne to Syracusa, that hee would create him a Duke in Sicilia: craving his Counſell how hee might ſcape out of the Countrie. Franiou, who haueſt ſome ſmall ſkill in Navigation, was well acquainted with the Poſts and haſpens, and knew every daunger in the ſea, ſoyning in counſell with the Maſter of Egistus Paule, rigget all their

ships, and setting them a late, let them be at anchor, take in the
more readings, when time and windes shal be seene. Forwes al-
though blind, yet by chance a boating to the full cause, sent them
within six daies a god gale of windes: which Franion sawing fit
for their purpose, to putt Pandosto out of suspition, the night be-
fore they shoulde sayle, he went to him, and promised, that the next
day he woulde putt the device in practise, for he had got such a fo-
rre Pandosto was ioyfull to heare this good newes, & thought he every
houre a day, till he myght be glutted with bloudy revenge: but
byrde danger, and mylling that the graffe shoulde not be cut from
under his fete, taking bagge and baggage by the helpe of Fra-
nion, conuayed himselfe and his men out at a postern gate of the
Cittie, so secretly, and speedily, that without any suspition they
got to the sea share: where, with many a bitter curse taking
their leaue of Bohemia, they went aboyd weighing their A-
rmes, and houpling sayle, they passed as fast as wind & sea woulde
permit towarde Sycilia: Egistus being a ioyfull man that he had
safely past such treacherous perills. But as they were quietly
floating on the sea, so Pandosto and his Cittizens were in an op-
portunitie towarde night, the Bohemians feareing some treason, and
the King thought that without question his suspition was true,
seeing the Cap-bearer had bewrayed the sum of his secret p-
erill. Whereupon he began to imagine that Franion and his
affection shew bare him, was the onely meane of his secret de-
parture: in so much that incensed with rage, he commaunded
that his wife shoulde be carried straight to prison, vntill they
had farther of his pleasure. The Guardes unwilling to lay
their hands on such a vertuous Princess, and yet fearing the
Kings fury, weare very lozowfull to fulfull their charge: com-
ming to the Queens lodging, they found her playing with her
yong Sonne Garinter: unto whom with teares doing the mes-
sage, Bellaria astonisched at such a hard censur, and finding her
there conscience a sure advocate to pleade in her cause, went to
the prison most willingly: where with sighes and teares, shew-

Dorastus and Fawnia.

gall away the time, till the myght come to her triall.

But Pandosto whose reason was suppressed with rage, and
whose babidid solite was incensed with fury: seeing Franion
had bewrayed his secretes, and that Egistus myght well be ray-
led on, but not reuenged: determined to myake all his myath
on poore Bellaria. He therefore caused a generall proclamation to
be made throught through all his Realme, that the Queen & Egistus had
by the helpe of Franion, not onely committed most incestuous a-
bultery, but also had conspired the Kings death: whereupon
the Leaute Franion was fled away with Egistus, and Bellaria
was most iustly unprisoned. This proclamation being once
blazed through the country, although the vertuous disposition
of the Queen did halfe discredit the contents, yet the suddaine &
speedy passage of Egistus, and the secret departure of Franion, in-
duced them (the circumstances throughtly considered) to thinke
that both the proclamation was true, and the King greatly in-
jured: yet they pitied her case, as sorrowful, that so good a Lady
should be crossed with such aduertis Fortune. But the King,
whose restlesse rage woulde remit no pity, thought that al-
though he myght sufficently requite his wifes falsched with
the bitter plague of pinching penury, yet his minde shoulde ne-
ver be glutted with revenge, till he myght haue fit time and op-
portunitie to repay the treachery of Egistus with a totall iniury.
But a curke Cow hath orentimes short hornes, and a willing
minde but a weake armes. So Pandosto although he felte that
revenge was a spurre to warre, and that enuy alwaies proffe-
reth stale, yet he saw, that Egistus was not onely of great pu-
issance and prouesse to withstand him, but had also many Kings
of his alliance to ayde him, if neade shoulde serue: for he married
the Emperours daughter of Russia. These and the like consi-
derations something daunted Pandosto his courage, so that he
was content rather to put vp a manifest iniurie with peace, then
hunt after revenge, dishonor, and losse: determining since Egistus
had escaped scot-free, that Bellaria shoulde pay for all at an un-
sonable price.

Remaining thus resolute in his determination, Bellaria
continuing still in prison, and hearing the contents of the Pro-
clamation, knowing that her minde was never touched with

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such affection, now that Egistus had euer offered her such discus-
tione, would gladly haue come to her answere, that both shee
migh haue knowne her iust accusers, and cleared her selfe of
that guiltlesse crime.

But Pandosto was so inflamed with rage, and infected with
Jealousie, as he woulde not vouchsafe to heare her, nor admit a
ny iust excuse: so that shee was faine to make a vertue of her
naide, and with patience to beare those heauie iniuries. As
thus shee lay crost with calamities (a great cause to increase
her griefe) shee sound her selfe quicke with childe: whiche as soone
as shee felte surre in her body, shee burst forth into bitter teates, ex-
claiming against fortune in these termes.

Alas Bellaria, howe infortunate art thou, becausse fortunate:
Wetter thou haddest beerne a beggar, then a Prince, so
shouldest thou haue bridled Fortune with want, where now
shee spoyleth her selfe with thy plentie. Ah happy life, where
pore thoughts, and meane desires liue in secure content, not
fearing fortune becausse too low. For Fortune, thou seest now
Bellaria that care is a companion to honor, not to pouertie: that
high Cedars are crushed with tempests, when lowe shrubs are
not touched with the winde: pretious Diamonds are cut with
the file, when despised pibbles lye safe in the sand. Delphesigne
sought to by Princes, not beggers: and Fortunes Altars sonched
with kings presents, not with pore mens gifts. Happy ang
such Bellaria, that curse Fortune for contempt, not feare: and
may wch they were, not sorrow they haue borne. Thou art a
Princesse Bellaria, and yet a prisoner: borne to the one by de-
scent, assigned to the other by despite: accus'd without cause, and
therefore oughtest to dye without care: for patience is a shield
against Fortune, and a guiltlesse minds yeeldeth not to sorrow.
Ah but in amy galleth unto death, and liueth after death: Re-
port is plumed with times feathers, and Envy oftentimes
soundeth Fames Trumpet: the suspecter adulterie shall fly in
the ayre, and thy knowne vertues shall lye hid in the Earth; one
Moale staineth a whole face: and what is once spotted with
Infamy, can hardly be woyne out with time. Die then Bella-
ria, Bellaria die: for if the Gods shoulde say you art guiltlesse,
yet

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yet enie would heare the Gods, but never belieue the Gods.
Ah ha! iesse wretch, cease these teaines: desperate thoughts
are fit for them that feare shame, not for such as hope for credite.
Pandosto hath darkened thy fame, but shall never discredite thy
vertues. Suspition may enter a false action, but prole shal ne-
ver put in his plea: care not then for enuie, sith report hath a bli-
ster on her tongue: and let sorrow haite them whiche offend, not
touch thoe that art fau'lesse. But alas pore soule, howe canst
thou but sorrow? Thou art with childe, and by him, that in stead
of kinde pittie, pinche h thes in cold prison. And with that, such
gasping sughes so stopping her breath, that shee could not vter
any more words, but wringg her hands, and gushing forth
stremes of teates, shee passed away the tyme with bitte complaints.

The Taylor pitring these her heauie passions, thinking that
if the King knew he were with childe, he woulde somewhat
appease his fury and release her from prison, went in al hast, and
certified Pandosto, what the effect of Bellarias complaint was:
who so sooner heard the Taylor, say she was with childe, but as
one possessed with a phazie, he rose vp in a rage, swearing that
shee, and the bastered brat she was withall should die, if the Gods
themselves said no: thinking that surely by computation of tyme,
that Egistus and not he was father to the childe. This suspitious
thought galled a fresh this halse healed soze, in so much as he
coule take no rest, vntill he might mittigate his choller with a
iust revenge, which happened presently after. For Bellaria was
brought to bed of a faire & beautifull daughter: whiche no sooner
Pandosto hearde, but he determined that both Bellaria and the
young infant should be burnt with fire. His Nobles, hearing of
the kings cruel sentence, sought by persuasions to diuert him
from his bloudie determination: laying before his face the inno-
cence of the childe, and vertuous disposition of his wife, how
she had continually loued and honoured him so tenderly, that
without due profe he could not, nor ought not to appeach her of
that crime. And if she had faulted, yet it were more honourable
to pardon with mercy, then to punishe with extremity: and more
kingly, to be commended of pitte, then accused of rigour: And
Sep.

for the childe, if he shold punish it for the mothers offence, it were to strike against nature and justice: and that unnaturall actions doe more offend the Gods, then men: howe causless cr. elty, no; innocent bloud never scapes without reuenge. These and such like reasons could not appease his rage, but he resoluted in this, that Bellaria being an Adultresse, the childe was a Bastard, and he would not suffer that such an infamous brat shold call him Father. Yet at last (seeing his noble men were impotunate upon him) he was content to spare the childe life, and yet to put it to a worse death. For he found out this devise, that seeing (as he thought) it came by fortune, so he would commit it to the charge of Fortune, and therfore he caused a little Cock-beat to be prouided, wherein he meant to put the babe, and then send it to the merries of the Seas, and the decessaries. From this his Wives in no wise could perswade him, but that he sent presently two of his guard to fetch the childe: who being come to the prison, and with weeping teares recounting their Maisters message: Bellaria no sooner heard the rigorius resolution of her mercillese husband, but she fell downe in a swoond, so that all thought she had bin dead: yet at last being come to her selfe, she cryed and scratched out in this wise.

A Las sweete infortunate babe, scare boyme, before times by fortune, would the day of thy birth had bene the tyme of thy life: then shouldest thou haue made an ende to care, and prevented thy Fathers rigour. Thy faults cannot yet deserve such hatefull reuenge, thy dayes are too shor for so sharpe a dome, but thy untimely death must pay thy mothers Debts, and her guiltie crime must bee thy gallye taske. And shal thou sweete Babe be committed to Fortune, when thou art already spited by Fortune: shal the Seas be thy harbour, and the hard boate thy cradle: shal thy tender Mouth, in stede of sweete kisles, be nipp'd with bitter stynes: shal thou haue the whistling windes for thy Lullabye, and the salt Sea foame in stede of sweete milke: Las, what destinies would alligne such hard hap: What Father would be so cruell: What Gods will not reuenge such rigor: Let me kisse thy lippes (sweete Infant) and wet thy tender cheakes with my teares, and put this chayre about

about thy little necke: that if fortune save the, it may helpe to succour the. This, since thou must goe to surge in the gallfull Seas, with a sorrowfull kisse I bid thy farewell, and I pray the Gods thou maist fare well. Such, and so great was her grieve, that her vitall spirits being suppressed with sorrow, she fell againe downe into a trance, haunting her sensess so sotted with care, that after she was reviued, yet shee lost her memsire, and lay so: a great time without moving, as one in a trance. The guard left her in this perplexite, and carried the child to the King: who quite deuoid of pittie, commaunded that without delay it shold be put into the boate, haunting neither saile nor rudder to guide it, and so to be caried into the middell of the Sea, and there left to the winde and wannes, as the destinies please to appoint. The very ship-men, seeing the swete countenance of the yong babe, began to accuse the King of rigour, and to pittie the childe hard fortune: but feare constrained them to that, which their nature did abhoyre: so that they placed it in one of the ends of the Boate, and with a few greene bowes made a homely cabin to sh:o vde it, as they could from winde and weather. Having thus trummed a Boate, they tied it to a ship, and so haled it into the maine Sea, and then cut in funder the corde: which they had no sooner done, but therre arose a mightie tempest which tossed the little Boate so vehemently in the wannes, that the ship-men thought it could not continue long without sinking: yea, the forme grew so great, that with much labour and perill they got to the shore. But, leaving the child to her fortunes, againe to Pandosto: who not yet glutted with sufficient reuenge, deuised whiche way he shold best increase his wifes calamite. But first assembling his nobles and Counsellers, hee called her (for the more reproach) into open Court: where it was objected against her, that shee had committed adultery with Egistus, and conspired with Franion to payson Pandosto her husband. But their pretence being partly spied, shee counselled them to flee away by night, for their better safetie. Bellaria (who standing like a prisoner at the barre, and feeling in her selfe a cleare conscience to withstand her false accusers) saying that no leste then death could pacifie her husbands wrath, w:red bold, and desidred that shee might haue Law

and Justice (for mercy shee never craved nor hoped) and that those perjured wretches, which had falsely accused her to the King, might be brought before her face, to gaine in evidence. Pandosto (whose rage and Jealousie was such, as no reason, nor equitie could appease) told her, that for her accusers, they were of such credite, as their wordz were sufficient witness, and that the sedaine and secrete flight of Egistus and Franion, confirmed that which they had confessed: and as for her, it was her part to denie such a monstrous crime, and to be impudent in forswearing the fact, since shee had passed all shame in committing the fault: but her stale countenance shold stand for no coyne: for, as the bastard which she bare was serued, so she shold with some cruell death be requited. Bellaria no whit dismayed with this rough replie, told her Husband Pandosto that he spake vpon choler, and not conscience: for her vertuous life had euer bene such as no spot of suspition could euer staine. And if she had boorne a striendly countenance to Egistus, it was in respect he was his friend, and not for any lustyng affection: therefore if shee were condemned without any further profe, it was rigour, and not Law. The noble men which sat in judgement, said that Bellaria spake reason, and intreated the King that the accusers might be openly examined, & sworne: if then the evidence were such, as the Jury might finde her guiltie (for seeing shee was a Prince shee ought to be tried by her Peers) then let her haue such punishment as the extremite of the Law will assigne to such malefactors. The King presently made answere, that in this case he might, and would dispence with the Law: and that the Jurie being once panneled, they should take his word for sufficient evidence: otherwise he would make the proudest of them repent it. The noble men seeing the King in choler, were all whist: but Bellaria whose life then hung in the ballance, fearing more perpetuall infamie, then mortall death, told the King, if his fury might stand for a Law, that it were baine to haue the Jury yeld their verdict, and therefore she fell downe vpon her knees, and desired the King that for the loue he bare to his young Sonne Garinter, whom she brought into the world, that he would grant her a resuest, the which was this, that it would please his Maiestie to lend vse of

his noble men whom he best trusted, to the Isle of Delphos, thers to enquire of the Oracle of Apollo, whether she had committed adultery with Egistus, or conspired to poison him, with Franion; and if the God Apollo, who by his divine essence knew all secrets, gaue answere that she was guiltie, she was content to suffer any torment, were it never so terrible. The request was so reasonable, that Pandosto could not for shame denie it, vntille he would be counted of all his subiects more wilfull then wise. He therefore agreed that with as much sped as might be there shold be certaine Embassadors dispatched to the Isle of Delphos: and in this meane season he commanded that his wife shold be kept in close prison. Bellaria hauing obtained this grant, was now more carefull for her little babe that floated on the Seas, then sorrowfull for her owne mishap. For of that she doubted: of her selfe she was assured: knowing if Apollo shold give Oracle according to the thoughts of the heart, yet the sentence shold go on her side; such was the cleerenesse of her minde in this case. But Pandosto (whose suspitions had still remained in one song) chose out sixe of his nobilitie, whom hee knew were scarce indifferent men in the Duchies behalfe, and prouiding all things fit for their tourney, sent them to Delphos. They willing to fulfill the Kings command, and desirous to see the situation and custome of the land, dispatched their affaires with as much sped as might be, and embarked themselves to the voyage: which (the wind and weather seruing fit for their purpose) was soon ended. For within thre weekes they arrived at Delphos: where they were no sooner set on Land, but with great devotion they went to the Temple of Apollo, and there offering sacrifice to the God, and gifte to the Priest, as the custome was, they humbly craved an answere of their demand. They had not long knelled at the Altar, but Apollo with a loud voyce said: Bohemians, what ye finde behinde the Altar, take and depart. They forthwith obeying the Oracle, found a scroule of parchment wherein was written these words in letters of gold.

The Oracle.

Suspition is no profe: Jealousie is an vnequall Judge:

Bellaria is chaste: Egistus blameless: Franion a true

Subiect: Pandosto treacherous: his babe an innocent, and the King shall die without an heire: if that which is lost be not found.

As soone as they had taken out this scroule, the Priest of the God commaunded them, that they should not presume to reade it, before they came to the presence of Pandosto, vntille they would incurre the displeasure of Apollo. The Bohemian Lords carefully obeying his command, taking their leaue of the Priest, with great reverence departed out of the Temple, and went to their shippes: and as soone as winde would permit them, sayled towards Bohemia, where in shorte time they safely arrived, and with great triumph issuing out of their shippes went to the Kings Pallace, whom they found in his chamber accompanied with other Noble men. Pandosto no sooner saw them, but with a merrie countenance he welcomed them home, asking what newes? They told his Maistrie, that they had receiued answere of the God written in a scroule: but with this charge, that they should not reade the contents before they came in the presence of the King: and with that they delivered him the parchment. But his Noble men entreated him, that sith therein were contained eyther the safetie of his wifes life and honestie, or her death and perpetuall infamy, that he would haue his Nobles and Commons assembled in the iudgement Hall: where the Duene brought in as a prisoner, shold heare the contents. If she were found guilty by the Oracle of the God, she all shold haue cause to thinke his rigour proceeded of due deuert: if her Grace were found faultlesse, then she shold be cleared before all, sith she had bene accused openly. This pleased the King so, that he appointed the day, and assembled all the Lords and Commons, and caused the Duene to be brought in before the iudgement seate, commanding that the indictment shoulde be read: wherein she was accused of adultery with Egistus, and a conspiracie with Franion. Bellaria hearing the contents, was no whit affayned, but made this charayfull answere.

If the divine powers be priuie to humane actions (as no doubt they are) I hope my patience shall make for me blussh,
and

and my unspotted life shall stayne spitefull discredite. For althoough lying report hath sought to appeach mine honour, and suspition hath intended to sngle credit with infamie: yet wheres vertue kepereth the sort, report and suspition may assayle, but never lacke. Now I haue led my life before Egistus comming, I appeals (Pandosto) to the Gods, and to thy conscience. What hath passed betwane him and me, the Gods onely know, and I hope will presently reveale. That I loued Egistus, I cannot denie: that I honoured him, I shame not to confesse. To the one I was forced by his vertues: to the other for his dignities. But as touching lascivious lust, I say Egistus is honest, and hope my selfe to be found without spot: for Franion, I can neither accuse him, nor excuse him: I was not priuie to his separacie: and that this is true, which I haue here rehearsed, I reserue my selfe vnto the diuine Oracle.

Bellaria had no sooner said, but the King commaunded that one of the Dukes shold reade the contents of the scroule, which after the Commons had heard, they gaue a great shoute, rejoycing and clapping their hands, that the Duene was cleare of that false accusation: but the King, whose conscience was a witness against him of his wilesse fury, and false suspected Jealousie, was so ashamed of his rash folly, that he intreated his Nobles to perswade Bellaria to forgiue, and to forget these iniuries, promising not onely to shew himselfe a loyall and louing husband, but also to reconcile himselfe to Egistus and Franion: revealing then before them all the cause of their secrete fight, and how treacherously he thought to haue practised his death, if the god minde of his cupbearer had not preuented his purpose. As thus he was relating the whole matter, there was word brought him, that his yong Sonne Garinter was sodainly dead: which newes so soone as Bellaria heard, surcharged before with extreame joy, and now supprest with heauie sorrow, her vitall spirits were stopt, that shes fell downe presently dead, and could never be reuived. This sodaine sight so appalled the Kings sensces, that he sunke from his seate in a swoone, so as he was faine to be carried by his Nobles to his Pallace, where he lay by the space of thre dayes without speech. His

Commons were as men in despaire, so diversly distressed; there was nothing but mounting & lamentation to be heard throughout all Bohemia: their young Prince dead, their vertuous Queen bereaved of her life, and their King and Soueraigne in great hazard: this tragical discourse of Fortune so daunted them, as they wept like shadowes not men: yet somewhat to comfort their heauie hearts, they heard that Pandosto was come to himselfe, and had recovered his spach: who as in fury brayed these bitter speeches.

O Diserable Pandosto, what surer witness then conscience? What thoughts more subtle then suspition? What plague more bad then Jealousie? Unnaturall actions offend the Gods more then men: and causelesse crueltie never scapes without reuenge. I haue committed such a bloudie fact, as I repent I may: but recall I cannot. Ah Jealousie, a hell to the minde, and a horrore to the conscience, suppreſſing reason, and inciting rage: a worse passion then phrenſie, a greater plague then madneſſe. Are the Gods iuſt? Then let them reuenge ſuch brutiſh crueltie: my innocent Babe I haue diuined in the ſeas: my louing wife I haue flaine with clauderous ſuſpition: my truſie friend, I haue ſought to betray, and yet the Gods are ſlacke to plague ſuch offences. Ah vniuſt Apollo, Pandosto is the man that hath committed the fault; why ſhould Garinter, ſeely child, abide the paine? Well ſith the Gods meane to prolong my daies to increaſe my dolour, I will offer my guiltie blodd a ſacrifice to thofe guiltie ſoules, whose liues are lost by rigorous fol- ly. And with that he reached at a rapier to haue muſthered himſelfe: but his Peeres being preſent, stayed him from ſuch a bloody act: perſuading him to think, that the Common wealth conſiſted on his ſafetie, and that thofe ſhape coulde not but per- iſh, that wanted a ſhepheard: wiſhing, that if he would not liue for himſelfe, yet he ſhould haue care of his ſubiects, and to put ſuch fancies out of his minde: ſith in ſoxes paſt helpe, ſalues do not heale, but hurt: and in things paſt cure, care is a coraſive, With thofe and ſuch like perſuasions the king was overcome, and began ſomewhat to quiet his mind: ſo that ſo ſone as he could goe abroade: hee cauſed his wife to be embalmed, and
wrap

wapt in leads, with her young ſonne Garinter: erecting a rich and famous Sepulchre, wherein he entombed them both, making ſuch ſolemne obſequies at her Funerall, as all Bohemia might perceiue he rid greatly repente him of his forepaſſed folly: cauſing this Epitaph to be ingrauen on her Coimbe, in letters of gold.

The Epitaph.

Here lies entombed Bellaria faire,
Eaſily accuſed to be unchaste:
Cleered by Apollos ſacred doome,
Yet ſlaine by Jealousie at laſt.

VVhat ere thou bee that paſſeſt by,
Curſe him that can de this Queene to die.

THIS Epitaph being ingrauen, Pandosto would once a day repaire to the Coimbe, and there with ſoatry plants beſtaine his miſſortune: courting no other companion but ſorrow, nor no other harmonie, but repentance. But leaning him to his dolorous paſſions, at laſt let vs come to ſhew the tragical diſcourse of the young Infant.

VVe being foſſed with wind, and waues, floated ſwo whole daies without ſuccour, readie at every pufſe to be diuined in the ſea: till at laſt the tempeſt ceaſed, & the littla Boate was diuen with the tide into the coaſt of Sycilia: where ſticking vpon the ſands, it reſted. Fortune minding to be wanton (willing to ſhew that as ſhe hath wrinkles on her browes: ſo ſhe hath dimples in her cheeks) thought after ſo many ſowre looks, to lend a fained ſmile: and after a puffing ſtorme, to bring a pretty calme: ſhe beganne thus to dally. It for- tu ned a poore mercenary ſhepheard, that dwelled in Sycilia, who got his liuing by other mens flockes, miſſed one of his ſhares, and thinking it had ſtrayed into the couert that was hard by, ſought very diligently to find that which he could not ſe, ſearching either that the Wolves or Eagles had vndone him (for he was

was shope, as a shope toke halfe his substance) wadede
downde towards the sea clifffes, to see if perchance the shape was
brazing on the sea shute, whereon they do greatly feare. But
not finding her there, as he was readie to returnde to his flocke,
he heare a childe crie: but knowing there was no house neare,
thought he had mistaken the sound, and that it was the bleating
of his shope. Wherefore looking more narrowly, as he cast his
eyes to the sea, he spied a little boate: from whence (as he at-
tentively listned) he might heare a crie to come. Standing a
good while in a maze, at last he went to the shoare, swading to
the boate, as he looked in, he sawe a little babe lying all alone,
ready to die for hunger and cold, swayped in a Mantle of Scar-
let, richly embrothered with gold, and having a Chaine about
the necke. The shopeheard, who before had never saene so faire
a babe, nor so rich Jewels, thought assuredly, that it was some
little God, and beganne with great devotion to knocke on his
breast. The babe, who writhed with the head to soke for the pap,
began againe to crie a frely: whereby the poore man knew that
it was a child, which by some sinisler meanes was driven thither
by distresse of weather: maruailing how such a silly Infant,
which by the Mantle, and the Chaine, could not but be borne
of noble parentage, shold be so hardly crossed with deadly mis-
hap. The poore shopeheard, perplexed thus with divers thoughts,
tooke pikkie of the Child, and determined with himselfe to carry
it to the King, that there it might be brought vp, according to the
worthisse of birth: for his abilitie could not afforde to foster
it, though his mind was willing to further it. Taking therefore
the Childe in his armes, as he folded the Mantle together, the
better to defend it from the cold, therre fel downe at his side a ve-
rie faire and rich purse, wherein he found a great summe of gold:
which gat to reuived the shopeheardes spirits, as he was greatly
ravished with joy, and daunted with feare: joyfull, to see such
a summe in his power: fearefull, if it shoulde be knowne, that it
migh braude his further danger. Necesitie wiste him at the
least, to retaine the gold, though he woulde not kepe the Childe:
the simplicitie of his conscience feared him from such deceitfull
bribarie. Thus was the poore man perplexed with a doubtfull
Dilema, vntill at last the courtesies of the coyne overcame
him

him: for what will not the grādy desire of Golde cause a man to
doe? So that hee was resolute in himselfe to foster the Childe,
and with the summe to relieue his want. Resting thus resolute
in this poynt, he left leaing his shope, and as courtly and se-
cretly as hee could, went a by-way to his ycuse, least any of his
Neighbours shold perceiue his carriage.

Asone as he was got home, entring in at the doore, the Childe
began to crie. Whiche his wife hee ring, and seeing her Husband
with a young Babe in his armes, began to be somewhat iealous:
yet marnelling that her husband shold be so wanton abroad,
sith he was in quiet at home. But as women are naturally gi-
uen to beleue the wōlf, so his wife thinking it was some ba-
stard, began to crow against her god man: and taking vp a cuds-
gell (for the most maister went brächlesse) sware solemnly that
she would make clubs trumpe, if he brought any bastard brat
withia her doores. The godman leirg his wife in her maiestie,
with her Pace in her hand, thought it was time to bow for feare
of blowes, and desired her to be quiet, for there was no such mat-
ter: but if she could hold her peace, they were made so euer. And
with that he told her the whole matter: how he had found the
childe in a little boate without any succour, swayped in that
costly Mantle, and having that rich chaine about the necke: but
at last when he shewed her the purse full of gold, she began to
simper something sweetly. And taking her husband about the
necke, kissed him after her hemely fashion: saying, that she ho-
ped God had saene their want, and now meant to relieue their
pouertie, and seeing they could get no childzen, had sent them
this little Babe to be their heyre. Take hede in any case (saith
the shopeheard) that you be secret, and blabbe it not out when you
mette with your Gossips. For if you doe, we are all like not one-
ly to lose the gold and Jewels, but our other goods and liues.
Cath (quoth his wife) profit is a good Hatch before the doore:
Feare not, I haue other things to talke of, then this: but I
pray you let vs lay vp the money surely, and the Jewels, least
by any mishap it be espyed. After that they had set all things in
order, the shopeheard went to his shope with a merry note, and
the godly wife learned to sing Lulleby at home with her young
Babe, swayping it in a homely blanket, in sted of a rich mantle,

The History of

nourishing it so cleanly and carefully, as it began to be a iolly Circle: insomuch that they began both of them to be very fond of it, and as it ware in age, so it increased in beantie. The Shepheard every night at his comming home, would sing and dance it on his knee, and prattle, that in a shorft time it began to speake and call him Dad, and her Mam. At last, when it grew to ripe yeares, that it was about seven yeares olde, the Shepheard left keping of other mens shape, and with the monney he found in the purse, he bought him the lease of a prettie Farms, and got a small flocke of shape: which when Fawnia (so so they named the child) came to the age of ten yeares, he set her to kepe shape: and she with such diligence performed her charge, as the shape prospered maruellously vnder her hand. Fawnia thought Porrus had bene her Father, and Mopsa her Mother (so so was the Shepheard and his wife called) and honoured and obeyed them with such reverence, that all the neighbours praised the dutifull obedience of the Childe. Porrus grew in shorft time to be a man of some wealth and credite. For for tyme so fauoured him in having no charge but Fawnia, that he began to purchase Land, intending after his death to give it to his Daughter: so that diuers rich Farmers Sonnes came as woers to his house. For Fawnia was something clearely at yred, being of such singular beantie and excellent wit, that who so saw her, would haue thought she had bene some heauenly Pimph, and not a mortall creature. Insomuch that when she came to the age of sixteene yeares, shee so increased with erquisse perfection both of body and minds, as her naturall disposition did bewray that she was borne of some high parentage. But the people thinking she was the daughter to the Shepheard Porrus, restid onely amazed at her beantie and wit. Pea she won such fauour and commendations in every mans eye, and her beantie was not onely praised in the Countrey, but also spoken of in the Court. Yet such was her subuite mode, that although her praise daily increased, her minde was no whit puffed vp with pride, but humbled her selfe as became a country waide, and the daughter of a pore Shepheard. Every day she went soorth with her shape to the field, keping them with such care and diligence, as all men thought she was very painfull,

Dorastus and Fawnia.

full, defending her face from the heate of the Sunne, with no other Mayle, but with a Garland made of Boughs and Flowers, which atlyze became her so gallantly, as shee seemed to be the Goddess Flora her selfe, so beautie. Fortune, who all this while had shewed a friendly face, began now to turne her backe, and to shew a lowring countenance: intending as shee had given Fawnia a slender checke, so shre would giv her a harder mate.

Whiche to bring to passe, she laide her traine on this wise: Egistus had but one onely Sonne called Dorastus, about the age of twenty yeares: a Prince so decked and adorned with the gifts of Nature, so straight with beautie and vertuous qualities, as not onely his Father ioyed to haue so godly a Sonne, but his Commons rejoyced that God had sent them such a noble Prince to succede in the Kingdome.

Egistus, placing all his ioy in the perfection of his Sonne (seeing that hee was now Marriagable) sent Embassadours to the King of Denmarke, to intreat a Marriage betwene him, and his Daughter. Who willingly consenting, made answere; that the next Sping, if it pleased Egistus, with his Sonne to come into Denmarke, he doubted not, but they should agree vpon reasonable conditions. Egistus restig lassayed with this friendly Answere, thought conuenient in the meantime to breake it vnto his Sonne. Finding therfore on a day fit opportunitie, he spake to him in these Fatherly termes.

Dorastus, thy YOUTH warneth me to prevent the worst, and mine AGE to prouide the best. Opportunities neglected are signes of folly: Actions measured by time, are seldom bitten with repentance; Thou art young, and I olde: Age hath taught me that, whiche thy youth cannot conceive.

I therefore will counsell thee as a Father, hoping thou wilt obey as a Childe. Thou seest my white hayres are blossomes for the Graue: and thy fresh colours, fruite for Time and Fortune; So that it behoueth mee to thinke how to dye, and soz thee, to care how to liue. My Crowne I must leaue by death, and thou enjoy my Kingdome by succession. Wherein I hope thy vertue and prouesse shall be such, as though my Subiectes want my Person, yet they shall see in thee my perfection. That

nothing eyther may fayle to satisfie thy minde, or increase thy dignities: the onely care I haue, is, to see thy well carryed befor I dye, and thou become olde.

Dorastus (who from his Infancie, delighted rather to dye with Mars in the field, then to dally with Venus in the Chamber,) fearing to displease his Father, and yet not willing to be illooke, made this reverent Answere.

SPUR, there is no greater bond then Dutie, nor no stricter Law then Nature: disobedience in Youth, is often galled with despight in Age. The command of the Father ought to be a constrainte to the Childe: so Parents willes are Lawes, so they passe not all Lawes. May it please your Grace therefore, to appoint whom I shall loue: Rather then by denyall I should be appeached of disobedience, I rest content to loue: though it be the onely thing I hate.

Egistus hearing his Sonne to fye farre from the marke, began to be somewhat Chollerike, and therfore made him this hastie Answere.

VVhat Dorastus, canst thou not loue? Commeth this Cynicall passion of yowdes, or penish Frowardenes? What, doest thou thinke thy selfe too good for all, or none good enough for the? I tell the Dorastus, there is nothing swifter then Youth: nor swifter decreasing, while it is increasing. Time past with Folly may be repented, but not recalled. If thou marry in Age, thy Wives fresh colours will brade in thy dead thoughts and suspition; and thy white hautes her loathesomes and sorrow. For Venus affections are not fed with Kingdomes, or Treasures; but with Youthfull conceyts, and swete Amours. Vulcan was alotted to shake the Tre, but Mars allowed to gather the fruit. Yelde Dorastus to thy Fathers persuasions, which may prevent thy perills. I haue chosen the a wife, faire by Nature, Royall by birth, by vertues famous, learned by education, and rich by possessions: so that it is hard to iudge, whether her bounty or Fortune, her beauty or Electue bee of greater force. I meane (Dorastus) Euphania, daughter and heire to the King of Denmarke.

Egistus

Egistus pausing here a while, looking when his Sonne shoulde make his answere: and seeing that he stode still, as one in a trance, he shake him vp thus sharply.

VVell Dorastus take heede, the Tre Alpya wasteth not with fire, but withereth with deaues: that which loue nouisheth not, perisheth with hate. If thou like Euphania thou brædest my content, and in louing her thou shalt haue my loue: otherwise: and with that he flung from his sonnes in a rage, leaving him a sorowfull man, in that he had by denying all displeased his Father; and hafse angrie with himselfe, that he could not yelde to that passion, whereto both reason and his Father perswades him. But see how Fortune is plumed with times feathers, and how she can minister strange causes to bræde strange effects.

It happened not long after this, that there was a meeting of all the Farmers daughters in Scycilia, whither Fawnia was also biiden as the Mistresse of the Feast: who hauing attyded her selfe in her best Garments, went amongst the rest of her compa- nyons to the said merry meeting: there spending the day in such homely pastime as Shepheards use. As the Evening grew on, and they sportes ceased, each taking they leaue of other, Fawnia desiring one of her companions to beare her company, went home by the Flocke, to see if they were well-folded. And as they returned, it so founted that Dorastus (who all that day had bene Hawking, and killed stroe of game) incountred by the way these two Maydes: and casting his eye suddenly on Fawnia, he was hafse afraid, fearing that with Acteon he had seene Diana: For hee thought such exquiste perfection could not be found in any mortall creature. As thus he stode in a maze, one of his Pages told him, that the Mayd with the Garland on her head, was Fawnia the sayye Shepheard, whose beauty was so much talked of in the Court. Dorastus, desirous to see if Nature had ador ned her minde with any inward qualities, as shee had decked her body with outward shape; beganne to question with her, whose Daughter she was: of what Age, and how she had bene trayned vp: Who answered him with such modest reverence and Sharpnes of wit, that Dorastus thought her outward beauty was but a

counterfeite to darken her amiable qualities: wondering how so corkeby behaviour could be found fit to simple a Cottage; and cursing Fortune, that had shadowed Witte and Beautie with such hard Fortune: And thus he held her a long time with chatte.

Beauty seeing him at discouert: thought not to lose the bantage, but stroke him so deeply with an inuenomed shaft, as he wholy lost his Libertie, and became a Slave to Loue, which before contemned Loue, glad now to gaze on a pore Shepheard, who before refused the offer of a rich Princesse. For the perfection of Fawnia had so fired his Fancie, as hee felt his minds greatly changed, and his affections altered: cursing Loue that had wrought such a change; and blaming the basenesse of his minds that would make such a choyce. But thinking these were but passionate toyes, that might be thrust out at pleasure: to annoy the Syren that Enchanted him, he put spurres to his Horse, and had this faire Shepheard fare-well.

Fawnia, (who all this while had marked the Princely gesture of Dorastus) seeing his face so well featured, and each Lim so perfectly framed, beganne greatly to praise his perfection, commending him so long, till shee found her selfe faultie: and perceyued that if shee waded but a little further, shee might slip ouer the shooes. Shee therefore taking to quench that fire which neuer was put out, went home; and faining her selfe not well at ease, got her to Bed: where casting a thousand thoughts in her head, shee could take no rest. For if shee awaked, she began to call to minde his beautie: and thinking to beguile such thoughts with sleepe, shee then dreamed of his perfection. Pestered with these unacquainted Passions, shee passed the night as she could, in shoothe numbers.

Dorastus, (who all this while roade with a Flea in his eare) could not by any meanes forget the swete Fauour of Fawnia, but restes so Bewitched with her Wit and Beautie, as he could take no rest. He felte fancie to give the Assaile, and his wounded minde readie to yelde as vanquished; yet he began with divers considerations to supprese his franticke affection: Calling to minde, that Fawnia was a Shepheard: one not worthy to be looked at of a Prince; much lesse to be loued of such a Potentate: thinking what a discredit it were to himselfe, and what a

griefe

it would be to his father: blaming fortune, and accusing his own folly, that shoud be to lond, as but once to cast a glance at such a country slut. And as thus he was raging against him selfe, Loue (fearing, if he taillid long, to lose her Champion) kept moore nigh, and gaue him such a fresh wound, as it pierst him at the heart, that he was faine to yeld mangre his lace, and to forsake the company, and get him to his Chamber, where being solemnly set, he burst into shese passionate terrors.

Ah Dorastus art thou alone? No not alone, while thou art tyzed with shese unacquainted passions. Yelde to fancie thou canst not by thy fathers counsell: but in a frenzie thou art, by iust destinies. Thy father were content, if thou couldst loue: and thou therefore discontent, because thou doest loue. O diuine Loue, feared of men, because honoured of the Gods: not to be suppressed by wisedome, because not to be comprehended by reason; without law, and therefore aboue law.

Hows now Dorastus? why doest thou blaze that with praises which thou hast cause to blaspheme with curses? Yet why shoud they curse loue, which are in loue?

Blush Dorastus at thy fortune, thy choyse, thy loue: thy thoughts cannot be uttered without shame, nor thy affections without discredit. Ah Fawnia, swete Fawnia, thy beautie Fawnia.

Shamest not thou Dorastus, to name one unfit for thy birth, thy dignities, thy Kingdomes? Die Dorastus, Dorastus die. Better haddest thou perish with high desires, then liue in base thoughts. Yet but beautie must be obeyed, because it is beautie: yet framed of the Gods to sedde the eye, not to sett the heart.

Ah, but he that striueth against Loue, shwefeth with them of Scyrum against the winde, and with the Cockatrice pecketh against the Steele. I will therefore obey, because I must obey. Fawnia, yea Fawnia shall be my fortune, in spight of fortune. The Gods aboue disdaine not to loue women beneath. Phoebus liked Daphne; Jupiter, Io: and why not I then Fawnia? one something inferiour to these in birth: but farre superior to them in beautie: borne to be a Shepheard, but worthy to be a Goddess.

Ah

By Dorastus, howe to forget thy fables to faine amiss
to suppose wisedome, and loue to violente thine honour : Howe
loue will thy choyse be to thy Father, soe wofull to thy Sub-
iects, to thy friends a griefe, most gladsome to thy foes ? Hub-
due them thy attencion, and cease to loue her whom thou cou-
dest not loue, blynde blinder with so much loue. Tush, I
talke to the winde, and in seeking to prevent the causes, I fur-
ther the effects. I will yet praise Fawnia, honour, pea and loue
Fawnia, and at this day follow content, not counsell. Doe Do-
rastus, thou canst not repent: and with that, his Page came in
to the chamber: whereupon he ceased from complaints, hoping
that time would weare out that which Fortune had wrought.
As thus he was pained, soe poore Fawnia was diversly perplexed.
For the next morning getting vp very early, she went to her
shape, thinking with hard labours to passe away her new con-
ceaved amours, beginning very easilly to drise them to the
field, and then to shitt the folds. At last (wearied with toyle) she
sate her downe, where (poore soule) she was more tyzed with
lond affections. For loue began to assault her: insomuch, that
as she sate upon the side of a hill, she began to accuse her owne
folly in these termes.

I fortunate Fawnia, and therefore unfortunate because Fawnia,
thy Shepheards hooke sheweth thy poore estate, thy prouud de-
sires an aspicing mind: the one declarereth thy want, the other
thy pride. No bastard Hawke mall soare so high as the Hobby,
no Fowle gaze against the Sunne, but the Eagle: actions
wrought against nature, reape despight: and thoughts aboue
fortune, disdaine.

Fawnia, thou art a Shepheard, Daughter to poore Porrus: if
thou rest content with this, thou art like to stand: if thou
climbe, thou art like to fall. The hearebe Ani a growing higher
then sixt inches, becommeth a wade. Nilus flowing more then
twelue Cubits, procureth a dearth. Daring affections that passe
measuris, are cut short by time or Fortune. Supprese then
Fawnia, those thoughts which thou mayest shame to expresse.
But ah Fawnia, loue is a Lord: who will command by power,
and constraine by force.

Dorastus

Dorastus, ah Dorastus is the man I loue: the worse is thy
hap, and the less cause hast thou to hope. Will Eagles catch
at flies: will Cedars stoupe at Brambles: or mightie Princes
looke at such homely Trulls? No, no: thinke this, Dorastus dis-
daine is greater then thy desire. He is a Prince, respecting his
honour: thou a beggers brat forgetting thy calling. Cease then
not onely to say, but to thinke to loue Dorastus: and dissemble
thy loue Fawnia. For better it were to die with griefe, than to
live with shame. Yet in despight of loue I will sigh, to see if I
can sigh out loue. Fawnia, somewhat appeasing her grieves with
these pitthy persuasions, began after her wonted manner to
Walke about her shape, and to keape them from straying into
the corne: suppreseing her affection with the due consideration
of her base estate, and with the impossibilities of her loue: thin-
king it were a frenze (not fancie) to couet that which the very
destinies denie her to obtaine.

But Dorastus was more impatient in his passions. For
Loue so fiercely assyled him, that neither company, nor Pu-
siche could mitigate his Hartynesse: but did rather arte
the more increase his maladie. Shame would not let him craue
counsell in this case: nor feare of his fathers displeasure, re-
ueile it to any secrete friend: but he was faine to make a se-
cretarie of himselfe, and to p[re]dict his thoughts with his
owne troubled minde. Linging thus a while in doubtfull sus-
pence, at last seing secretly from the Court, without eyther
man or Page, he went to see if he could espie Fawnia wal-
king abroad in the field. But, as one having a great deale more
skill to retiue the Partridge with his Spaniels, then to hunt
after such a strange prey, he sought, but was little the better.
Which crose lucke drave him into a great choler, that he be-
gan both to accuse Loue and fortune. But as he was readie
to retire, he saw Fawnia sitting all alone under the side of an hil,
making a Garland of such homely flowers as the fieldes did
afford. This sight so reuived his spirits, that he drolo nigh,
with more iudgement to take a view of her singular perfec-
tion: which he found to be such, as in that Country attire she
rayned all the Courtly Dames of Sycilia. While thus he
was gazing with pearcing looks on her surpassing Beautie,

C

Fawnia

Fawnia cast her eye aside, and spied Dorastus. Which sodaine sight made the pale girl to blush, and to die her Chrysall cheakes with the vermillion red: which gave her such a grace, as she seemed farre more beautifull; and with that she rose vp, saluting the Prince with such modest courtesies, as he wondered how a country maid could afford such courtly behauour. Dorastus repaying her courtesie with a smiling countenance, began to parley with her on this manner.

Faire maids (quoth he) eyther your want is great, or a Shepheards life very swete, that your delight is in such countrey labours. I cannot conceiue what pleasure you should take, vnlesse you meane to imitate the Nymphes, being your selfe so like a Nymph. To put me out of this doubt, shew me what is to be commended in a Shepheards life, and what pleasures you haue to counteraile these drudging labours. Fawnia, with blushing face, made him this answere.

Sir, what richer state then content: or what swarter life then quiet? We Shepheards are not borne to honour, nor beholding vnto beautie: the lese care we haue to feare same or fortune. We count our attire braue enough, if warme enough: and our food daintie, if to suffice nature: our greatest enemy is the Wolfe: our onely care, in safe keeping our flocke, in stead of courtly disties, wee spend the daies with country songs: our amorous conceits are homely thoughts: delighting as much to talke of Pan and his country prankes, as Ladies to tell of Venus and her wanton toyes. Our toyle is in shifting the foldes, and looking to the Lambes, easke labours: oft sitting and tellling tales; homely pleasures: our greatest wealth, not to couet, our hono; not to climbe: our quiet, not to care. Enie looketh not so lowe as Shepheards: Shepheards gaze not so high as ambition: we are rich, in that we are poore with content: and proud onely in this, that we haue no cause to be proud.

This wittie answere of Fawnia so inflamed Dorastus fancy, as hee commended himselfe for making so god a choice: thinking, if her birth were answerable to her wit and beaute,

tie, that she were a fit mate for the most famous Prince in the world. He therefore began to lise her more narrowly on this manner.

Fawnia, I see thou art content with Countrey-labours, because thou knowest not Courtly pleasures: I commend thy Wit, and pity thy want. But wilt thou leue thy Fathers Cottage, and serue a Courtly Mistresse?

Sy (quoth she) Beggers ought not to striue against Fortune, nor to gaze vgainst Honour; least eyther their fall be greater, or they become blinde. I am borne to toyle for the Court, not in the Court: My nature vnfit for theyr nature: better liue in meane degrae, then liue in high disaine.

Well said Fawnia (quoth Dorastus) I gesse at thy thoughts, thou art in loue with some Countrey-Shepheard.

No Sy (qd. she) Shepheards cannot loue, that are so simple: and Maydes in my not loue that are so young.

Sy therefore (quoth Dorastus) Maydes must loue because they are young: for Cupid is a Childe, and Venus, though olde, is painted with fresh colours.

I grant (said she) Age may be painted with newe shadowes, and Youth may haue imperfect affections: but what art concealeth in one, Ignorance revealeth in the other. Dorastus seeing Fawnia helde him so hard, thought it was vaine so long to beate about the Bush: therefore he thought to haue given her a fresh charge: but hee was so preuented by certaine of his men; who missing their Master, came Posting to seeke him, seeing that he was gone so th all alone; Yet before they drewe so nigh that they might haue theyr talke, he vised these speches.

Why Fawnia, perchappes I loue thee, and then thou must needes yelde. For thou knowest I can command and constraine. Truth Sy (quoth she) but not to loue: for constrained loue is force, not Loue: And know this Sy, mine honestie is such, as I had rather dye, then be a concubine, euen vnto a king: and my byrth is so base, as I am vnfit to be a wife vnto a poore Farmer. Why then (quoth he) thou caust not loue Dorastus. Yes (saide Fawnia) when Dorastus becomes a Shepheard: and with that the presence of his men broke off theyr Parley; so that

hee went with them to the Pallace, and left Fawnia sitting still on the Hill side: Who, seeing that the right dwel on, shifted her foldes, and busied her selfe about other worke, to drive away such fond fancies as beganne to trouble her braine. But all this could not preuale: for the beautie of Dorastus had made such a deepe impression in her heart, as it could not be wozne out without cracking; So that shee was sayne to blame her owne folly, in this wise.

A Y Fawnia, why doest thou gaze against the Sunne, or catch at the Winde? Starres are to be looked at with the Eye, not reached at with the hand: Thoughtes are to be measured by Fortunes, not by deires; Falles come not by sitting lowe, but by climbing too high. What then, shall all feare to fall, because some happen to fall? No, Lucke commeth by Lot, and fortune windeth those thredds which the Destinies spinne. Thou art favoured Fawnia of a Prince, and yet thou art so fond to reject desired fauours: Thou hast denyall at thy tongues end, and desire at thy hearts bottome: a Romans fault, to spurne at that with her foute, which she greedily catcheth at with her hand: Thou louest Dorastus, Fawnia; and yet seemest to lowe. Take heede, if he retire, thou wolt repent, for vniuersall loue, thou canst but die. Die then Fawnia: for Dorastus doth but iest. The Lyon never preyeth on the Mouse: nor doe I faulcons soupe to dead stales. Sit downe then in this seyoun; Cease to loue, and content thy selfe, that Dorastus will bounchsafe for to flatter Fawnia, though not to fancie Fawnia. Leigh-ho: Ah-soule, It were seemelyer for thee to whistle as a Shepheard, then to sigh as a Lauer: And with that she easel from these perplexed passions: folding her Sheepe, and byng hem to her poore Cottage. But such was the unconstant sorte of Dorastus, to thinke on the Wit and Beauty of Fawnia: and to see how fond hee was, being a Prince: and how forward she was being a Begger: that he began to lose his wanted Appetite, to looke pale and wanne: in Steele of myrth, to feed on melancholy: for Courtly daunces, to use colde Dumps. Insomuch, that not onely his owne men, but his Father, and all the Court began to marnell at his soudaine change, thinking that some lingring sicknesse had brought him

him into this state. Wherefore he caused Physitions to come. But Dorastus neyther would let them minister, nor so much as suffer them to see his Urine: but remained still so oppressed with these Passions, as he feared in himselfe a further inconuenience. His Honour wished him to cease from such follie: but Loue, forced him to folow fancie: yea, and in despight of Honour Loue wanne the conquest. So that his hote desires caused him to finde newe deuices. For he presently made himselfe a Shepheards Coate, that hee might goe vnknoiune, and with lesse suspition to prattle with Fawnia: and conneyed it secretly into a thicke Groue hard adioyning to the Pallace: whither finding fit time and opportunity he went all alone; And putting off his Prince-ly Apparell, got on those Shepheards-roabs: and taking a great Rose in his hand (which hee also had gotten) he went very conveniently to finde out the Mistresse of his Affection. But as hee went by the way, seeing himselfe clad in such vnseemely Ragges, he beganne to smille at his owne folly, and to reproue his sondenes, in these termes.

VELL said Dorastus, thou kepest a god Decorum; Vase desires, and homely Attyres: Thy thoughts are fit for none but a Shepheard, and thy Apparell such as onely becomes a Shepheard. A strange change; from a Prince to a Peasant. What, Is it thy wretched fortune, or thy wilfull follie? Is it thy cursed Destinies, or thy crooked desires, that appoynteth thee this Penance? Ah Dorastus, thou canst but loue, and vniuersall loue, thou art like to perish for loue. Yet, fond soule, chose flowers, not Weeds; Diamonds, not Pibbles: Ladies, which may honour thee: not Shepheards which may disgrace the. Venus is painted in silkes, not in ragges: and Cupid treadeth on disdaine, when he reacheth at dignitie. And yet Dorastus, blame not at thy Shepheards weede: the heauenly Gods haue sometime earthly thoughts: Neptune became a Ramme, Jupiter a Bull, Apollo, a Shepheard; they Gods, and yet in loue: and thou a man appointed to loue.

Deuising thus with himselfe, hee dwelwe nigh to the place where Fawnia was keping her Sheepe: who casting her Eye aside, and seeing such a mannerly Shepheard, perfectly limm'de,

and comming with so god a pace, she began halfe to forget Dorastus, and to fauer this pretie Shepheard, whom she thought she might both loue and obtaine. But as she was in these thoughts, she perceiued then, it was the young Prince Dorastus: wherefore she rose vp, and reverently saluted him. Dorastus taking her by the hand, receyved her Courtesie with a swete kisse, and praying her to sit downe by him, he began thus to lay the Battery.

Iff thou maruell Fawnia at my strange Attyre, thou wouldest much more muse at myne vnaccusyned thoughtes: The one disgraceth but my outward shype, the other disturbeth my inwardesences: I loue Fawnia, and therefore what Loue liketh, I cannot mislike. Fawnia thou hast promised to loue, and I hope thou wilst performe no lesse: I haue fulfilled thy request; and now thou canst not but graunt my desire. Thou wert content to loue Dorastus, when he ceast to be a Prince, and became a Shepheard: And s^e, I haue made a change, and therefore not to mislike of my choyce.

T Ruth (quoth Fawnia;) but all that weare Coules are not Monkes: Painted Eagles are pictures, not Eagles: Zeuxis grapes were like Grapes, yet shadowes: Rich Cloathing make not Princes; nor honest attye Beggers: Shepheards are not called Shepheards, because they weare Hooches and Bagges, but because they are boyns pore, & line to kepe Shepe: So this attye hath not made Dorastus a Shepheard, but to see me like a Shepheard.

VV^ell Fawnia, (answering Dorastus) were I a Shepheard, I could not but like thee: being a Prince, I am forst to loue the. Take hede Fawnia, be not prouide of Beauties painting: For it is a flower that fadeth in the blissoine. Those which disfaine in youth, are despised in age. Beauties shadowes are trickt vp with Times colours: Which being set to drye in the Sunne are gained with the Sunne, scarce pleasing the sight, yet they begin not to be worth the sight: not much vnlike the Hearbe Ephimeron, which flourishest in the morning, and is withereth before the Sunne-setting. If my desire were against

Dorastus and Fawnia.

against law, thou myghtest iustly denie me by reason: but I loue thee Fawnia: not to misuse thee as a Concubine, but to vse thee as my wife; I can promise no more, and meane to performe no lesse.

Fawnia hearing this solemne protestation of Dorastus, could no longer withstand the assault, but yielded vp the foxt, in these friendly termes.

AY Dorastus, I shame to expresse that thou forcest me with thy sugred speech to confesse: my base birth caueth the one, and thy high dignities the other. Beggers thoughts ought not to reach so farie as Kings, and yet my desires reach as high as Princes. I dare not say Dorastus I loue the, because I am a Shepheard: but the Gods know I haue honoured Dorastus, (pardon if I say amisse) yea and loued Dorastus with such dutifull affection, as Fawnia can performe, or Dorastus desire: I yeld not, ouercome with prayers, but with Loue: resting Dorastus hand-maid, readie to obey his will, if no pxiudice at all to his honour, nor my credite.

Dorastus hearing this friendly conclusion of Fawnia, embrased her in his armes, swearing that neyther distance, time, nor aduerte for me should diminish his affection: but that in despight of the destiries he would remaine ioyfull vnto death. Having thus plight their trotheach to other, seeing they could not haue the full scruition of their loue in Sycilia, for that Egistus content would never be granted to so meane a match, Dorastus determined as soone as time and opportunity wold give him leaue, to prouide a great masse of money, and many rich and costly Jewels, for the easier carriage: and then to transport themselves and their Treasure into Italy, where they shold leade a contented life, vntill such time as eyther he could be reconciled to his Father, or else by succession come to the Kingdome. This devise was greatly praysed of Fawnia: for she feared, if the King his father shold but heare of the contract, that his fury wold be such, as no lesse then death shold stand for payment. She therefore told him, that eelg^e b^ezed danger: that many mishaps did fall out betwene the cup

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cup and lip : and that to auyd anger, it were best wyl as
much sped as myght be, to passe out of Sycilia, least Fortune
myght preuent their patience with some new despight. Do-
rastus, whom loue prickid forward with desire, promised to
dispatch his affaires with as great hast, as e, ther tyme or op-
portunitie would give him leaue: and so resting vpon this point,
after many embracings and swete kisises, they departed. Do-
rastus, hauing taken his leaue of his best beloued Fawnia, went
to the groue where he had his rich apparel, and there vncasing
himselfe as secretly as myght be, hidynge by his Shepheards at-
tire, till occasion shoulde serue agayne to use it: he went to the
Pallace, shewing by his merrie counenance, that eyther the
state of his body was amended, or the cause of his minde greatly
redressed. Fawnia poore soule was no leesse toyfull, that being
a Shepheard, Fortune had sauoured her so, as to reward her
with the loue of a Prince: hoping in tyme to be advanced from
the daughter of a poore farmer, to be a wife to a rich King.
So that she thought every houre a yea, till by their depar-
ture they myght preuent danger: not ceasing still to goe every
day to her shæpe: not so much for the care of the flocke, as for
the deſtre she had to ſee her loue and Lord Dorastus: who often-
times when opportunitie would ſerue, repaireth thither to ſeare
his fancie with his swete content of Fawniaes preſence. And
although he never went to viſit her, but in these Shepheards
ragges, yet his oft repaire made him not onely ſuſpected, but
knowne to diuers of their neighbours: who for the god will
they bare to old Porrus, told him ſecrely of the matter, wiſhing
him to keþe his daughter at home, least ſhe went ſo oft to the
field, that ſhe brought him home a young ſonne. For they fea-
red that Fawnia being ſo beautifull, the young Prince would al-
lure her to folly. Porrus was ſtricken into a dumpe at theſe
newes, ſo that thanking his neighbours for their god will, he
bied him home to his wife: and calling her aside, wringing his
hands, and ſhedding forth teares, he bade the matter to her in
theſe termes.

I am afraid wife, that my daughter Fawnia hath made her
ſelfe ſo fine, that ſhe will buy repenſance too deate. I heare
newes

Dorastus and Fawnia.

ſoules, which if they be true, ſome will wiþe ſhyg had not pa-
ned true. It is tolde me by my Neigbours, that Dorastus the
Kings Sonne begins to loke at our Daughter Fawnia: which
if it be ſo, I will not give her a halfe-pennie for her Honetie at
the yeaſes ende. I tell thee wife, now a dayes beauty is a great
dale to trap young men: and faire wordes and swete promiſes
are two great enemys to Maides chalſtie: and thou knowest,
where poore men in reate and cannot obtaine, thare Princes may
commaund, and will obtaine. Though Kings Sonnes daunce
in Reſts, they may not be ſeene: yet poore mens faultes are ſpyed
at a little hole. Well, it is a hard caſe where King. Lukes are
Lawes, and that they ſhould binde poore men to that whiche they
themselves wilfully breake.

Peace Husband (quoth his Wife) take heede what you ſay:
ſpeak no more then you ſhould, leſt you heare what you would
not. Great ſtreames are to be ſtepped by ſteights, not by ſoſe:
and Princes to be perſwaded by ſubmiſſion, not by r'gour: Doe
what you can, but no more then you may; leſt in ſaving Fawniaes
Mayden-head, you loſe your owne head.

Take heede I ſay, it iſ i liſting with Edgd-toles, and badde
ſpotting with Kings. The Wolfe had his ſkin pulled ouer his
Eares, ſo but looking into the Lyons denne. Truly wife (qd.
he) thou ſpeakſt like a ſoile: if the King ſhould know that Dora-
ſus had gotien our Daughter with Childe (as I ſeare it will fall
out little better) the Kings ſurie would be ſuch, as no doubt tree
ſhould both loſe ſur gods and liues: Necessity therefore hath no
Law, and I will preuent this miſchief with a new deuice that
iſ come into my head, which ſhall neither offend the King, nor
diſplease Dorastus. I meane to take the Chayne and the ſcud-
ells that I found with Fawnia, and carry them to the King: let-
ting him then to vnderſtand, how ſhe is none of my Daughter,
but that I found her beaten up with the Water alone, in a li-
tle Boate, and wrapped in a rich Mantle, wherein was inclo-
ſed this Treaſure. By this meaues I hope the King will taſe
Fawnia into his ſervice, and wee whatſoever chaunceth, ſhall da-
ble neleſſe. This deuice pleased the Good-Wife very well, ſo
that they deſcerned as ſone as they might knowe the King
at leſture, to make him privie to this caſe. In the meane tyme,

F

Dorastus

Dorastus was not hache in his affayres, but applied his matters with such diligence, that he prouided all things fit for theyr iourney. Treasure and jewels he had gotten great store, thinking there was no better friend then Honey in a Strange Countrey: Rich Attre he had prouided for Fawnia: and because he could not bring the matter to passe without the help and aduiseement of some one, hee made an olde Servant of his called Capnio, who hadde serued him from his Childe-hode, priuie to his affayres; Who, seeing no perswallions could prouable to diuert him from his settled determination, gaue his consent, and dealt so secretly in the cause, that within thore space he had gotten a Shippere ready for theyr affage. The Mariners seeing a fit gale of winde for their purpose, wished Capnio to make no delayes, least (if they pretermitted this god Weather) they might stay long ere they had such a faire winde.

Capnio, fearing that his negligence should hinder the iourney, in the night time conneyed the Trunckes full of Treasure into the Shipp, and by secret meanes let Fawnia understand, that the next morning they meant to depart. She vpon this newes slept very little that night, but got her vp very early, and went to her Shipe, looking euery minute when she should see Dorastus, who carried not long, for feare Delay might brinde danger: but came as fast as he could Gallop, and without any great circumstance tooke Fawnia vp behinde him, and rode to the Hauen where the Shippelay, which was thre quarters of a mile distant from that place. Hee no soner came there, but the Mariners were ready with theyr Cock-boate to set them abord: where being couched together in a Cabbine, they past away the Time in recounting theyr olde Lounes, till theyr man Capnio should come.

Porrus, who had hearde that this Morning the King would goe abroade to take the Ayre, called in haste his Wifre to bring him his Holie-day Hose, and his best Jacket, that hee might ge like an honest substantiall man to tell his Tale. His wifre a god cleanly Wench, brought him all things fitte, and sponged him vp very handesomely, giving him the Chaine and the jewels in a little boare: which Porrus for the more safety put in his boarne. Having thus his trinkets in a readinesse, taking his staffe in his hand, he had his Wifre kille him for god lucke, and so he

went

went towards the Pallace. But as he was going, Fortune (who meant to shew him a little false play) preuented his purpose in this wise.

He met by chance in his way Capsio, who frudging as fast as he could with a little Coffer vnder his arme to the ship, and spying Porrus, whom he knew to be Fawniaes Father going towards the Pallace: being a wily fellow, began to doubt the woorst, and therefore crost him the way, and asked him whither he was going so early in the morning.

Porrus (who knew by his face that he was one of the Court) meaning simply, told him that the Kings sonne Dorastus dealt harshly with him: for he had but one Daughter who was a little beautifull, and that his neighbours told him, the young Prince had allured her to folly: he went therefore now to complaine to the King how greatly he was abused.

Capnio (who straight way sene the whole matter) began to scold him in his talke, and said, that Dorastus dealt not like a Prince to spoyle any poore mans daughter in that sort: he therefore would doe the best for him he could, because he knew he was an honest man. But (quoth Capnio) you lose your laboure in going to the Pallace: for the King meanes this day to take the ayre of the Sea, and to goe abord of a ship that lies in the Haue: I am going before you see, to prouide all things in a readinesse: and if you will follow my counsell, turne backe with me to the hauen, where I will set you in such a fit place as you may speake to the King at your Pleasure. Porrus giuing credt to Capnios smooth tale, gaue him a thousand thanks for his friendly advise, and went with him to the Hauen, making all the way his complaint on Dorastus; yet concealing secretly his Chaine and the Jewels. Assone as they were come to the Sea side, the mariners seeing Capnio, came to land with their Cock-boate: who still dissembling the matter, demanded of Porrus if he would goe see the Shipp: who unwilling and fearing the woorst, because he was not well acquainted with Capnio, made his excuse, that he could not brake the Sea, and therefore would not trouble him.

Capnio, saing that by faire meanes he could not get him aboard, commaunded the Mariners that by violence they should

carried him into a shyp, who like Gartes knaues boylled the pease
Shepheard on their backes, and bearing him to the Boate, lan-
ched from the land.

Porrus seeing himselfe so cunningly betrayed, durst not cry
out, for he saw it wold not preuaile: but began to intreate
Capnio and the Partiners to be god to him, and to pittie his
estate, he was but a pore man that lived by his labour: they
laughing to see the Shepheard so afraid, made as much hast as
they could to set him aboyd. Porrus was no sooner in the shyp,
but h. saw Dorastus walking with Fawnia, yet he scarce knew
her: for h. had attyred her selfe in rich apparell, which so in-
creased her beautie, that she resembled rather an Angell, thena
creature.

Dorastus and Fawnia were halfe astonished to see the olde
Shepheard, maruellung greatly what winde had brought him
thither, till Capnio told them all the whole discourse: how
Porrus was going to make his complaint to the King, if by po-
licie he had not prevented him: and therefore now with he was
aboyd, so the awyding of further danger, it were best to carry
him into Italy.

Dorastus praised greatly his mans deuice, and alloyned of
his counsaile: but Fawnia (who still feared Porrus as her Fa-
ther) began to blush for shame, that by her meanes he should
eyther incurre danger or displeasure.

The old Shepheard hearing this hard sentence: that he shold
on such a suddaine be carried from his wife, his Countrey and
kindefolke, into a foraigne land amongst strangers, began with
bitter teares to make his complaint, and on his knees to intreat
Dorastus, that pardoning his vnauided folly, he would give
him leaue to go home: swearing that he would keepe all things
as secrei as he could wish. But these protestations could not
preuaile, although Fawnia intreated Dorastus very earnestly;
but the Partiners hoylting their matine sayles weighed Anchors
haled into the deepe, where we leaue them to the succour of the
winds and seas, and returne to Egistus.

VHo having appointed this day to hunt in one of his
forests, called for his swane Dorastus to goe sport
himselue,

himselfe, because he saw that of late he began to loue: but h. had
then made answere, that he was gone abroad none knew whi-
ther, except he were gone to the grove to walke all alone as his
custeine was every day.

The King willing to waken him out of his dumpes, sent
one of his men to goe seeke him, but in vaine: for at last he re-
tirred, but find him he could not, so that the King went him-
selfe to goe see the sport: wheres passing away the day, return-
ing at night from hunting, he asked for his sonne, but he could
not be heard of, which drave the King into a great choler: where-
upon most of his noble men and other Courtiers, passed abroad
to seeke him, but they could not heare of him through all Sicilia:
only they missed Capnio his man, which againe made the King
suspect that he was not gone farre.

Two or thre daies being passed, and no newes heard of
Dorastus, Egistus began to feare that he was devoured with
some wilde beasts, and vpon that made out a great troupe of
men to goe seeke him: who coasted through all the Countrey,
and searched in every dangerous and secret place, vntill at
last they met with a fisherman, that was sitting in a little
conert hard by the Sea side mending his Nets, when Doras-
tus and Fawnia tooke shippynge: who being examined if he ey-
ther knew and heard where the Kings sonne was, without any
fear or tie at all reuealed the wholte matter, how he was sayled
two daies past, and had in his company his man Capnio, Por-
rus, and his faire daughter Fawnia. This beaute newes was
presently carried to the King, who halfe dead for sorroow, com-
manded Porrus wife to be sent for: she being come to the
Palace, after due examination, confessed that her neighbours
had oft told her that the Kings Sonne was too familiar with
Fawnia her daughter: wherepon her husband fearing the
worst, about two daies past (hearing the King shold goe on
hunting) rose early in the morning, and went to make his
complaint, but since he never heard of him, nor saw him,
Egistus receyving the womans vndeuided simplicitie, let her
depart without incuring further displeasure, conceyning such
secret griefe for his Sonnes vnychelike folly, that he had so for-
gotten his honour and parentage, by sochase a chosse to di-
sowne

now his Father, and discredit himselfe, that with very care
and thought he fell into a quarten feuer; whiche was so vrulfe to
his aged yeres and complexion, that he became so weake as the
Physitians wold grant him no life.

But his sonne Dorastus little regarded eyther Father, Countrey, or kingdome, in respect of his Ladie Fawnia: for fortune
smiling on this young nource, sent him so luckie a gale of wind,
for the space of a day and a night, that the Marriners lay and
slept upon the hatches: but on the next morning about the break
of the day, the ayre began to overcast, the windes to rise, the
Seas to swell, and presently there arose such a fearefull tempest,
as the Ship was in danger to be swalloyned vp with every wave,
the maine Hatch with the violence of the Winde was throwne
ouer-boord, the Sailes were torn, the Tackling rent a sunder,
the Storme raging still so furiously, that poore Fawnia was al-
most dead for feare, but that she was greatly comforted with
the presence of Dorastus. The tempest continued thre daies,
all which time, the Marriners every minute looked for death,
and the ayre was so darkened with clouds, that the Master could
not tell by the compasse in what Coast they were. But vpon
the fourth day about ten of the clocke, the winde began to cease,
the Sea to ware calme, and the skie to be cleare, and the Mar-
riners discryed the coast of Bohemia, shooting off their Ordinance
for joy that they had escaped such a fearefull tempest.

Dorastus hearing that they were arrived at some harbour,
swetly kissed Fawnia, and bad her be of god chare: when
they told him that the Port belonged to the chiefe Cittie of
Bohemia where Pandosto kept his Court, Dorastus begannes
to be sad: knowing that his Father hated no man so much as
Pandosto, and that the king himselfe had sought secretly to
betray Egistus: this considered, hee was halse afraid to goe
an land, but that Capnio counselled him to change his name
and his Countrey, vntill such time as they could get some other
Barke to transport them into Italy. Dorastus liking this de-
vice, made his case privie to the Marriners, rewarding them
housitfully for their paines, and charging them to say, that he
was a Gentleman of Trapolonia called Meleagrus. The
Marriners, willing to shew what friendship they could to Dora-
stus,

Dorastus and Fawnia.

stus, promised to be as secret as they could, vnder wight wth:
and vpon this, they landed in a Village a mile distant from the
Cittie: There, after they had rested a day, thinking to make
Provision for theyr Marraige, the Fame of Fawnias beautie
was spred throughout all the Cittie: so that it came to the eare of
Pandosto; who then being about the age of fiftie, had notwith-
standing young and stch Affections: So that he desired greatly
to see Fawnia: and to bring this matter the better to passe, hea-
ring they had but one man, and how they rested at a very homely
house, he caused them to be apprehended as Spyes; and sent
a dozen of his Guard to take them: Who being come to theyr
Lodging, tolde them the Kings Message. Dorastus no whit dis-
mayed, accompanied with Fawnia and Capnio, went to the
Court, (so they left Portus to keepe the stffe) who being admit-
ted to the Kings presence, Dorastus and Fawnia with humble ob-
eyrance saluted his Maiestie.

Pandosto, amazed at the singular perfection of Fawnia, stood
halse astonished, viewing her Beautie: so that hee almost forgot
hunselle what he had to doe. At last with sterne countenance,
he demanded theyr Names, and of what Countrey they were,
and what caused them to Land in Bohemia? Syr (quoth Do-
rastus) Know that my name is Meleagrus, a Knight borne and
brought vp in Trapolonia: and this Gentlewoman, whome I
meane to take to my wife, is an Italian, borne in Padua, from
whence I haue now brought her. The cause I haue so small a
Clayne with me, is, for that her Friends unwilling to consent,
I intended secretly to convey her into Trapolonia, whither I
was sayling, and by distresse of weather, I was driven into these
Coastes. Thus haue you heard my Name, my Countrey, and
the cause of my Voyage. Pandosto starting from his Seate, as
one in choller, made this rough Replie.

Meleagrus, I feare this smoth Tale hath but a small troth,
and that thou couerest a sole skinne with faire paintings. No
doubt this Ladie, by her grace and Beautie, is of higher degrēe,
moze mēte for a mighty Prince, then for a simple Knight: and
thou like a periured Trapto, hast bereft her of her Parents, to
their present griefe, and her ensuing sorowe: Will therefore I
heare more of her parentage, and of her calling, I will stay you
both.

Saints in Bohemia.

Dorastus, in whom nothing but singly valour, was
not able to suffer the reproaches of Pandosto, but that he made
him this answere.

It is not meete for a King, without dae proue to appreach any
man of ill behauiour, nor upon suspition to infirme Beliefe:

Strangers ought to be entertained with courtesie: not to be in-
creased with crueltie, least being forced by want to put vp ini-
ctes, the Gods reuenge their cause with rigour.

Pandosto hearing Dorastus bitter these wordes, comandement
that he shold straight be committed to Prison, vntill such time
as they heard further of his pleasure: but as for Fawnia, hee
charged that shee shold be entertained in the Court, with such
courtesie as belonged to a Stranger, and her calling. The rest
of the Shipmen put into the Dungeon.

Hauing thus hanedes the supposed Trapolianians: Pando-
sto contrary to his aged yeares, begannē to be somewhat tickled
with the beautie of Fawnia; insomuch that he could take no rest,
but cast in his olde Head a thousand new deuices: At last he fell
into these thoughts.

How art thou thus pestered Pandosto with fresh Affections,
and vngtie Fancies, wishing to possesse with an unwilling
minde, and a hote Desire troublee with a colde disdaine?
Whal thy minde valed in Age, to that thou hilt refuse in youth?

Peace Pandosto, blabbe not out that which thou mayest be a-
shamed to reueale to thy selfe. Ah Fawnia is beautifull, and it
is not for thine Honour (fond Fole,) to name her that is thy
Captive, and another mans Concubine. Alas, I reache at that
with my hand, which my heart would faine refuse: playing like
the Wyd Ibis in Egypt, which hatcheth Serpents, and get fedeth
on theye Egges.

Wish hote Desiresturne oftentimes to colde disdaine: Love
is brittle, where Appetite, not Reason, beares the sway: Kings
thoughtes ought not to climbe so high as the Hauens; but to
lise no lower then Honour: better is it to pecke at the Starres
with the young Eagles, then to Prey on dead Carrasses with
the

Dorastus and Fawnia.

the Walton: It is more honorablie for Pandosto to die by con-
sealing Love, then to enjoy such vngtie Love. Doth Pan-
dosto then Love? Yea. Whom? A maide unknotone, yea and
perhaps unmodest, straggled out of her owne Countrie: beau-
tiful, but not therfore chaste: comely in body, but perhappes
crooked in minde. Cease then Pandosto to luke at Fawnia,
much lese to loue her: be not overtaken with a womans beau-
tifie, whose eyes are foymed by art to enamour, whose heart is
stained by nature to enchant: whose false teares know their
troues times, and whose swete wordes pierce deeper then sharpe
swordes. Here ceast Pandosto from his talke, but not from his
love: for althoough he sought by reason and wisome, to supprese
this frantike affection: yet he could take no rest, the beautie of
Fawnia had made such a deepe impression in his heart. But on a
day walking abroade into a Parke which was hard adioyning
to his house, he sent by one of his seruants for Fawnia, vnto
whom he uttered these wordes.

Fawnia, I commend thy beautie and wit, and nein pittie
thy distresse and want: but if thou wolt forsake thy Mc-
leagrus (whose povertie, though a knight, is not able to main-
taine an estate answerable to thy beautie) and yeld thy con-
sent to Pandosto, I will both increase thee with dignities and
riches. So Sir, answered Fawnia, Mcleagrus is a Knight
that hath wonne me by Love, and none but he shall weare me:
his knyfes mischaunce shall not diminish my affection, but ra-
ther increase my god will: thinke not, thought your Grace
that I imprisoned him without cause, that feare will make me
yeld my consent: I had rather bee Mcleagrus wife, and a beg-
ger, then live in plentie, and bee Pandostes Concubine. Pan-
dosto hearing the assured answere of Fawnia, would not
withstanding, prosecute his suite to the uttermost: seeking with
faire wordes and great promises to scale the fort of her chaste-
tie: swearing that if she would graunt to his desire, Mcleagrus
should not onely be set at libertie, but honoured in the Court a-
mongst his Nobles: but these alluring baytes, could not intice
her minde from the loue of her new betrothed Mate Mcleagrus:
which Pandosto seeing, hee left her alone for that time to

conquerour of the daunger : Fawnia being alredy her selfe,
began to fall into these solitarie meditations.

A **H**infortunat Fawnia, thou seest, to desire above Fortune,
is to strive alredy Gods and Fortune. Who gateth at the
Sunne, weakeneth his sighte; they which stare at the Solrie, fall
ofte into depe pitte: he doest thou resled content to haue bene a
Shepheard, thou needest not to haue feared mischaunce: beller
had it bene for the, by sitting low, to haue had quiet, then by
climing high, to haue fallen into misery. But alas, I feare not
mine owne daunger, but Dorastus displeasure. Ah swete
Dorastus, thou art a Prince, but now a Prisoner, by so much
loue, procuring thine owne losse: haddest thou not loued Fawnia,
thou haddest bene fortunate. Shall I then be false to him
that hath forlaken thynges for my cause? No, would my
death might deliuer him, so myre honour might be preserued.
With that, fetching a depe sigh, he ceasid from his lour, plaints,
and went againe to the Pallace, enioyng a lisure life without
content, and profited pleasure with small joy. But pore Dorastus
lay all this while in close prison, being pinched with a hard re-
straynt, and payned with the burthen of cold and heauie Irons,
sorrowing sometimes that his sond affection had procured him
this mishap, that by the disobedience of his Parents, he had
brought his owne despight: another while cursing the Gods
and Fortune, that they wold crasse him with sinistre chaunce,
victuring at last his passions with these words.

A **U**nfortunate wretched wome to mishap, now thy folly hath
his deser: art thou not worthy for thy base minde, to haue had
fortune? Could the destinies fauour the, which hast forgot
thy honour and dignitie? will not the Gods plague him with
despight, that payneth his father with disobedience? Oh Gods,
if any fauour or iustice be left, plague me, but fauour pore
Fawnia, and shrowde her from the tyrannies of wretched Pandosto: but let my death free her from mishap, and then welcome
death. Dorastus payned with these heauie passions, sorrowed
and sighed, but in vaine, for which he vied more patience.
But againe to Pandosto, who brawling in the heate of vnlaw-
full lust, could take no rest, but still felte his minde disquieted

With

DORASTUS AND FAWNIA.

With his new loue, so that his Nobles and Subiects maruelled
greatly at his sudden Alteration: Not being able to conjecture
the cause of this his continued care.

Pandosto thinking every houre a yeare, till he had talked once
again with Fawnia, sent for her secretly into his Chamber: who
ther Fawnia, though unwillingly comming, Pandosto entertained
her very courteously, vsing these familiar spachess, which
Fawnia answered as shortly in this wise.

Pandosto.

Fawnia, Are you become lesse wilfull and more wise, to pre-
ferre the Loue of a King before the liking of a pore Knight? I
thinke ere this, you cleare it is better to be fauoured of a King,
then of a Subject.

Fawnia.

Pandosto, the Bodie is subiect to Victoires, but the minde
not to be subdued with Conquest; Chastitie is to be preferred
before Honour: and a Discraine of Faith weygheth downe a
Tunne of Golde. I haue promisid Meleagrus to loue, and will
performe no lesse.

Pandosto.

Fawnia, I knowe thou art not so vnwise in thy choyce, as
to refuse the Offer of a King; nor so vngratefull as to despise a
God-turne: Thou art nowe in that place where I may com-
maund, and yet thou seest I intreate. My power is such, that
I may compell by Force, and yet I sue by Prayers. Valde
Fawnia thy loue, to him whiche burneth in thy loue, Meleagrus
Shall be set free, thy Countrey-men discharged, and thou both
loued and honoured.

Fawnia.

I see Pandosto, where Lust ruleth it is a miserable thing to
bee a Virgine: But knowe this, that I will alwayes preferre
fame before life, and rather chuse death then dishonour.

Pandosto seeing that there was in Fawnia a determinate
Courage to loue Meleagrus; and a resolution without feare to
hate him, flinging away from her in a rage, he swore, that if in
short time he wold not be wonne by reason, he wold forget all
courteisie, and compell her to grant by rigour. But those threatening
wordes no whit dismayed Fawnia: but that shee still both

G 2

despigh.

espised and despised Pandosto. While thus these two Lovers dwote, the on to winne Loue, the other to winne hate. Egistus heard certaine newes by merchants of Bohemia, that his Sonne Dorastus was Imprisoned by Pandosto: which made him feare greatly, that his Sonne should bee but hardly intreated: Yet considering that Bellaria and he were clostred by the Oracle of Apollo, from the crime wherewith Pandosto had iniustly charged them: he thought best to send with all sped to Pandosto, that he shold set free his Sonne Dorastus, and put to death Fawnia, and her Father Porrus.

Finding this, by the advise of Counsell, the spakkest remedie to release his Sonne, he caused presently two of his Ships to be rigg'd, and throughly furnished with provision of men and materials, and sent divers of his Nobles, Embassadors into Bohemia: Who willing to obey the King, and receive their young Prince, made no delayes, for feare of danger, but with as much sped as might bee, sailed towards Bohemia: The Winde and Seas fauoured them greatly, which made them hope of some godd happe; for within thre dapes they were landed: Which Pandosto, no soner heade of them Arriuall, but he in Person went to mete them, intreating them with such sumptuous and familiar courtesie, that they might well perceyue how sorry he was for the former Injuries he hadde offered to their King, and how willing (if it might bee) to make amends.

As Pandosto made reporte to them, howe one Meleagrus, a Knight of Trapolonia, was lately arraigned with a Ladie called Fawnia, in his Land, counteing very suspitionously: accompanied only with one Servant, and an olde Shepheard: The Embassadors perceyued by the halfe, what the whole Tale meant, and beganne to Coniecture that it was Dorastus, whos soe feare to be knowne, had changed his Name. But dissembling the matter, they shoxily attiued at the Court, wher after they had been very solemnly and sumptuously feasted: the Noble men of Cycilia being gathered together, they made reporte of their Embassage; where they certified Pandosto, that Meleagrus was Sonne and Heire to the King Egistus, and that his name was Dorastus: and how contrary to the Kings minde he had priuily conueyed away that Fawnia, intending to marry her, being but Daughter to that

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shepheard Porrus. Whereupon the Kings request was, that Capnio, Fawnia, and Porrus, might be murthered and put to death: & that his sonne Dorastus might be sent home in safety.

Pandosto having attentively and with great maruell heard ther: Embassage, willing to reconcile himselfe to Egistus, and to shew him how greatly he esteemed his fauour; although Loue and Fawnia forbad him to hurt Fawnia, yet in despite of Loue he determined to execute Egistus Will without mecie, and therefore he presently sent for Dorastus out of Prison; who marueling at his unloked for courtesie, found at his comming to the Kings presence, that which he least doubted of, his Fathers Embassadors: Who no sooner saw him, but with great reverence they honoured him: And Pandosto embrasing Dorastus, set him by him very louingly in a chayre of Estate.

Dorastus ashamed that his follie was bewayed, sate a long time as one in a muze, till Pandosto tolde him the summe of his Fathers Embassage; which he had no soner heard, but he was touched at the quicke soe, the cruel sentence that was pronounced against Fawnia: but neyther could his sorrow nor persuasions preuile: For Pandosto commaunded that Fawnia, Porrus, and Capnio, shold be brought to his presence: Who were no soner come, but Pandosto, having his former loue turned into disdainfull hate, beganne to rage against Fawnia in these teares.

Thou disdainesfull Cassall, thou currish Rite, assigned by the Destinies to base Fortune; and yet with an aspying minde gazing after honor: How darst thou presume being a Beggar, to match with a Prince? By thy alluring looks to Enchant the Sonne of a King, to leave his owne Countrey to fulfill thy disordinate Lusts? O dispitfull minde! a proud heart in a Begger, is not unlike a great fire in a smal Cottage: which warmeth not the house, but burneth it: affre thy selfe thou shalt die: And thou olde boating Foe, whose follie hath bene such, as to suffer thy Daughter to reach aboue thy Fortune: Looke for no other mate, but the like punishment. But Capnio, thou which hast betrayed the King, and hast consented to the unlakewell lust of thy Lorde and Daisher, I know not how iustly I may plague thee: Death is too easie a punishment for thy falsehood, and to

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line (if not in infernall miserte) were not to shew the equite. I therefore awarde that thou shalt haue thine Eyes put out, and continually till thou dyest, grinde in a Wyll like a vnde Beast.

The feare of Death brough a most sorowfull silence vpon Fawnia and Capnio : but Porrus seeing no hope of life, burt forth into these speches.

Pandosto, and þe þoble Embassadours of Sycilia, seeing without cause I am condemned to dye : I am yet glad I haue opportunity to disburthen my Conscience before my Death : I will tell you as much as I know, and yet no more then is true; whereas I am accused that I haue beene a supporter of Fawnias pride, and shē disdained as a vile Beggar; So it is, that I am neither Father unto her, nor she Daughter unto me.

For it so happened that I being a þore Shepheard in Sycilia, living by keepeing other mens Flocks : one of my Sheeps layng downe to the Sea-side; as I went to seeke her, I saw a little Boate driven vpon the shoare, wherein I found a Babe of fire dyes olde, wrapped in a faire Mantle of Scarlet, hauing about the Necke this Chayne: I pittying the Childe, and desirous of the Treasure, carreyed it home to my wife, who with great care purled it vp, and set it to keepe Shepe. Here is the Chayne and Jewells, and this Fawnia is the Childe, whome I found in the Boate: What she is, or of what Parentage I know not : but this I am assured, that she is none of mine.

Pandosto would scarce suffer him to tell forth his Tale, but that he required the time of the Peace, the manner of the Boate, and other circumstances; Which when he found agreeing to his count: Suddenly he leapt from his seate, and kissed Fawnia, wetting her tender cheeks with his Teares, and crying, My Daugther Fawnia, Ah my sweete Fawnia, I am thy Father Fawnia.

This sudden passion of the King, draw them all into a Maze, especially Fawnia and Dorastus. But when the King had breasted himselfe a while in this newe joy, hee rehearsed before the Embassadours the whole matter, and how he had intreated his wife Bellaria, for Jealousie, and this was the Childe whome he sent to flote in the seas.

Fawnia was not more joyfull that she had found such a Father,

Dorastus and Fawnia.

þer, then Dorastus was glad he shold get such a wife. The Embassadours rejoyced that their young Prince had made such a choyce: that those Kingdomes which through enmitie had long time bene diuered, shold now through perpetuall amitie be united and reconciled. The Citizens and Subiects of Bohemia (hearing that the King had found againe his Daugther which was supposed dead, ioyfull that there was an Heyre apparant to the Kingdome) made Bonfires and shewes thorough out all the Cittie: The Courtiers and Knights appoynted Jesters and Turneres, to signifie their willing mindes in gratifying the Kings hap.

Eightene dayes being past in these Princely sportes, Pandosto willing to recompence old Porrus, of a Shepheard made him a Knight: which done, prouiding a sufficient Chaue to receire him and his retinue, accompanied with Dorastus and Fawnia, and the Sycilian Embassadours: he sailed towards Sycilia, where he was most princely entayned by Egistus: who hearing this comicall event, rejoyced greatly at his Sonnes god happe, and without delay (to the perpetuall ioy of the two young Louers) celebrazed the mariage. Which was no sooner ended, but Pandosto (calling to minde how first he betrayed his friend Egistus, helpe his Jealousie was the cause of Bellariaes death, that contrarie to the Law of Nature hee had lusted after his owne Daughter) moued with these desperate thoughts, he fell in a melancholy fit, and to close vp the Comedie with a Tragical stratageme, he slew himselfe: whose death beeing many dayes bewayled of Fawnia, Dorastus, and his deere friend Egistus: Dorastus taking leave of his Father, went with his wife and the dead Corps into Bohemia: where, after it was sumptuously entombed, Dorastus ended his dayes in contented quiet.

FINIS.